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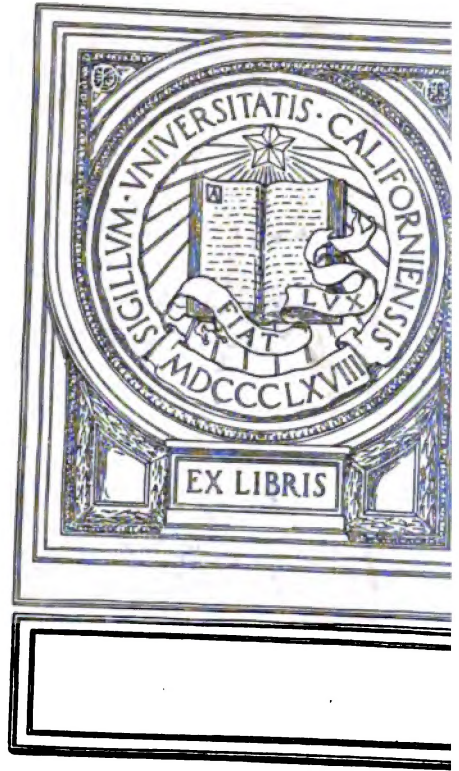
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**Sir John Thomas Stanley**  
of Alderley Bar:





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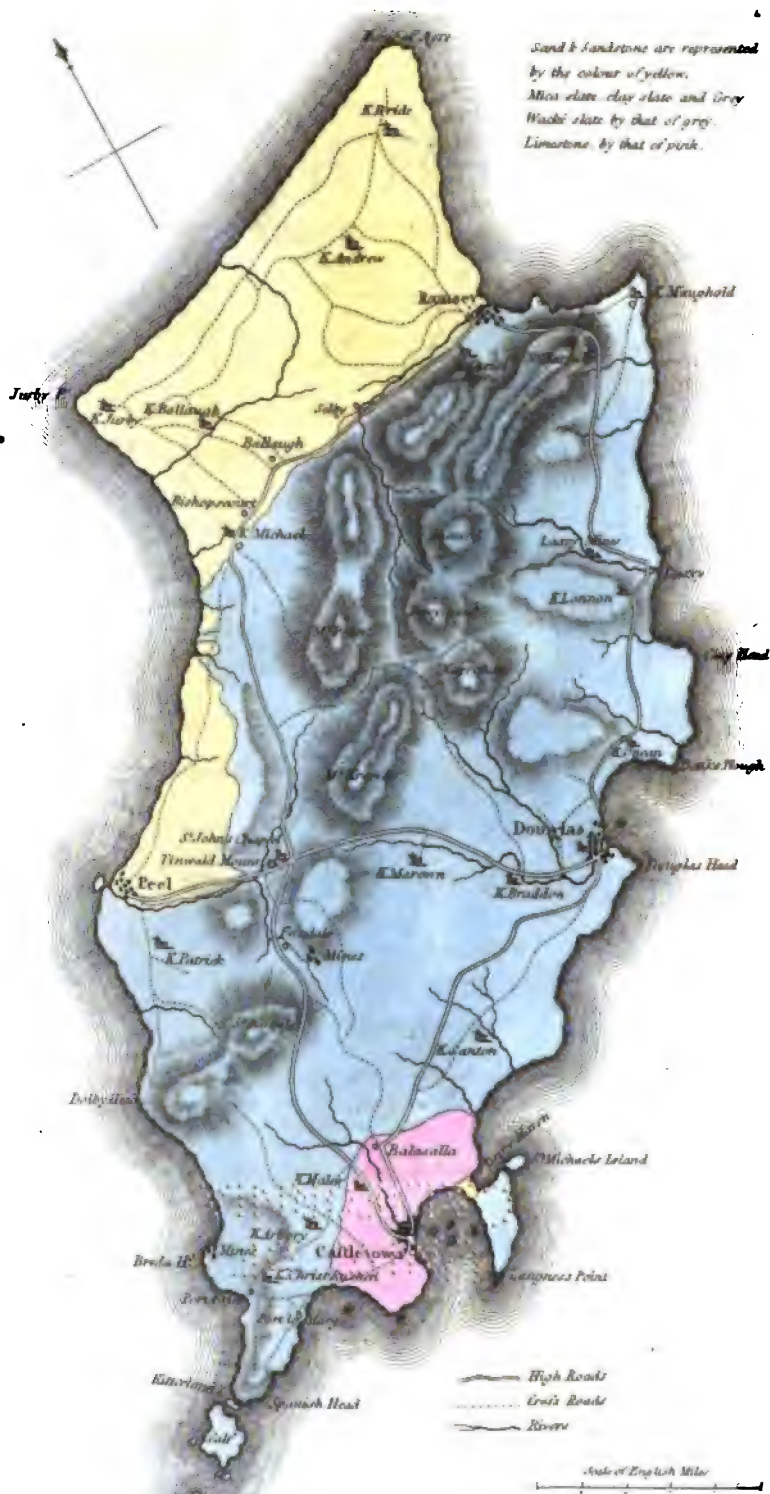
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AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE PAST AND PRESENT STATE  
OF THE  
ISLE OF MAN;  
INCLUDING  
A TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION;  
A  
SKETCH OF ITS MINERALOGY;  
AN  
OUTLINE OF ITS LAWS,  
WITH  
THE PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY STRANGERS;  
AND  
A HISTORY OF THE ISLAND.

---

*By* **GEORGE WOODS.**

---

“ — Quis nescit, primam esse historiarum legem, nequid falsi dicere  
“ audeat? deinde, neque verè non audeat?”  
CICERO de Oratore, Lib. ii.

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1811.



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TO THE  
ALPHABET

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C. Baldwin, Printer,  
New Bridge-street, London.

*To THOMAS STEWART TRAILL of Liverpool,  
M.D. this Work is dedicated, as a mark of  
esteem, and as a testimony of gratitude  
for the great assistance which he has ren-  
dered to the Author in its mineralogical  
department.*



## PREFACE.

---

HAVING resolved to visit the Isle of Man, a place remarkable for the singularity of its laws, customs, and privileges, my curiosity prompted me, previously to setting off, to gain every information in my power respecting it. With some difficulty I procured a map of the island, but tried in vain to purchase any book upon the subject.

During my stay in Man, I heard various complaints of the want of such a publication, and was thereby determined to submit to the indulgence of the public the present collection of facts and observations.

This is, I believe, the only work which combines, with a description of the country, a history of the island, and an outline of its laws; and the only one which has even touched upon its mineralogy.



Of the subjects mentioned in the title page, I make three divisions; the first containing a general and particular description of the state of the island; the second, an account of its constitution, laws, and privileges, the latter relative to strangers; and the third, its history from the earliest tradition to the present time.\*

\* Since the writing of this preface I have met with a book, published in 1808, entitled, "A Descriptive and Historical Account of the Isle of Man, with a view of its society, manners, and customs; partly compiled from various authorities, and from observations made in a tour through the island in the summer of 1806, dedicated to his Majesty, by Nathaniel Jefferys, formerly representative in parliament for the city of Coventry." 12mo. p. 200, price 8s.—This title page, the author considers "a sort of literary licence for picking and stealing."

It is the duty of a person, who writes for the public eye, to give every information in his power, upon the subject he has chosen; to examine authorities, and to relate many things which have been related before. The authorities of the Jeweller to the Prince of Wales appear to have been Robertson and Feltham. Had the treatise been valuable, it would have checked my own presumption. The period of ten or fourteen years makes considerable alteration in the appearance of an improving country; and the author has not been careful to separate what continues to be true from that which is so no longer.

## **PREFACE.**

**vii.**

Nineteen pages of the preface relate to his former publications, and his transactions with the Prince of Wales. They contain an apology for his past conduct, and an assurance to the public that the subsequent liberality (a powerful argument) of his Royal Highness has convinced him of his former errors.



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Univ. of  
California

ACCOUNT  
OF  
THE ISLE OF MAN.

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BOOK I.

---

CHAPTER I.

*Situation and Extent of the Isle of Man. Etymology of its Name. A Sketch of its Mineralogy.*

**MAN** is an island in the Irish Sea, distant from St. Bee's-head, in Cumberland, thirty nautical miles; from Burrow-head, in Scotland, sixteen miles; and from Strangford, in Ireland, twenty seven miles; the latitude of the middle of the island being fifty four degrees and sixteen minutes north. Its length rather exceeds thirty miles, and its mean breadth ten.

Etymologists are not agreed respecting the derivation of its name. Bishop Wilson sup-

posed it to be an abbreviation of Manning, its present *Manks* appellation, signifying, in that language, *among*; this isle being surrounded by other territories. Some suppose it to be derived from *Mona*, a word which they imagine, but without sufficient authority, to have been used by Cæsar to denote this island.\* *Mona* and *Monoida* are classed by Ptolemy under the head of Irish islands: Pliny informs us that *Mona* and *Monapia* lie between Ireland and Britain:† and the *Mona* of Tacitus is undoubtedly Anglesey; since he relates in his *Annals* the circumstance of the infantry of the army of Suetonius crossing from the main land in flat-bottomed vessels; and of the horse partly fording the passage upon the shoals, and partly swimming over. And, again, we are informed, in the life of Agricola, that the army under the

\* Alterum (latus Britanniae) vergit ad Hispaniam atque occidentem solem: qua ex parte est Hibernia, dimidio minor, ut aestimatur, quam Britannia: sed pari spatio transmissus, atque ex Gallia est in Britanniam. In hoc medio cursu est insula quæ appellatur *Mona*: complures præterea minores objectæ insulæ existimantur.

*Cæsar, de Bello Gallico, Lib. 5, Cap. 18.*

† Inter Hyberniam ac Britanniam, *Mona*, *Monapia*, *Ricnae*, *Vectis*, *Silimnus*, *Andros*. *Plin. Lib. 4. Cap. 16.*

command of that general crossed the straits without the assistance of any vessels, and so frightened the inhabitants by the boldness of such conduct, that they sued immediately for peace.

Perhaps the words *Mona* and *Man* may both of them be derived from the ancient British word *mon*, accented grave in Owen's dictionary, and signifying *what is isolated*.

This island is divided into two unequal portions by a chain of moderately high mountains, running from north-east to south-west, broken at one part, between mount Kreevey and South Barrule. The most considerable summits are Snawfel and North and South Barrule, the two last forming its extremities. The height of Snawfel, as taken by the barometer, is five hundred and eighty yards above the level of the sea; and the two Barrules are inconsiderably lower.

The high land between North Barrule and Mount Kreevey gives rise to several rivers, the chief of which empty themselves into the sea at Ramsey, at Laxey, and at Douglas. Ramsey river is the largest; and the flat country, through which it finally runs, permits spring-

tides to produce their effect upon it two miles from the sea. The northern branch of Douglas river rises on the western side of Mount Garrahan. The northern side of South Barrule contributes a portion of its waters to Peel river, and another to the river of Glenmay. The southern side sends forth a streamlet, one of the branches of Castletown river, which joins the other branch, a little above Athol bridge, running nearly south. All the streams are very shallow; and smaller ones, not large enough in summer to turn a mill, are very frequent.

The northern portion of the island is a light sand, resting on a bed of common clay: the greatest portion of the island consists of a barren soil, resting on grey wacké-slate, and on clay-slate: a small portion around Castletown is composed of lime-stone of transition: and the mountains are formed chiefly of strata of clay-slate, much intersected by veins of quartz, and which seem to rest on mica-slate, a mineral that occurs on the sides and summits of several of them, and which probably rests on granite.

The dip of the strata, whether of slate, of lime-stone, or sand-stone, is almost invariably south-east. The chief metallic repositories are

veins of lead and copper ores near Laxey, at Foxdale, and at Breda-head, near Port Erin.

Such is a general view of the distribution of the mineral productions in the island. I shall now give a detailed account of the individual mineralogy, beginning with the mountains.

North Barrule, the northern extremity of the chain, is composed of mica-slate, covered by clay-slate. The new road, from Ramsey to Laxey, is cut in the side of this mountain, and exposes its internal structure, which consists of mica-slate covered by a shining clay-slate, formed of thin laminæ. The clay-slate covers it to the summit in saddle-shaped strata.

Snawfel, the next important one, is composed of the same materials as North Barrule. The clay-slate, which is more glossy, and of a more micaceous appearance, covers the mica-slate in mantle-shaped strata, leaving the latter projecting through them to form the summit. The mica-slate contains much quartz, which is often crystalised in transparent pyramidal crystals. The clay-slate on this mountain becomes less shining as we descend, that is, as we recede from the mica-slate, and gradually gives way to grey wacké-slate. This appearance is a very



general one in primitive countries; the oldest strata of clay-slate gradually approximating the more crystalline appearance of the primitive rock on which they rest, as they approach it. The sides of Snawfel are generally covered, to the depth of several feet, with turbary, the surface of which is green with mosses and rushes. The verdure continues to the top, and is frequently studded with the snowy tufts of *Eriophorum vaginatum* and *E. polystachion*, (cotton grass.) Here and there the strata of the mountain are exposed to view.

Penny-pot (perhaps Pen-y-pont\*) is composed of clay-slate to the summit, resting in all probability upon mica-slate. The clay-slate resembles exactly that of North Barrule in colour, lustre, and the thinness of its laminae. This is the most marshy of the mountains; and the ascent, even in dry summer weather, is consequently tedious and unpleasant.

Mount Kreevey is very rugged and precipitous near the road from Douglas to Peel. The strata nearest the surface are glossy clay-slate, traversed by many large veins of quartz, which are

\* i. e. head or hill of the bridge.

often two or three feet thick, and generally contain a considerable quantity of mica. Mica-slate lies immediately under the clay-slate.

South Barrule, the southern extremity of the ridge, presents on its north side many blocks of granite, composed of silvery mica, reddish white feldspar, and grey quartz. These are too numerous and too huge ever to have been transported by human art. Fragments of mica-slate make their appearance on several parts of the mountain, but the prevailing rock is a clay-slate similar to that of Pen-y-pont. From these facts it is highly probable that the nucleus of this mountain consists of granite.

This arrangement may also be considered as that of the great mass of the island, except that, in the plains, the common clay-slate gives place to grey wacké-slate.

In tracing the strata from Douglas towards Castletown, we find that the grey wacké-slate continues from the high land to the sea shore, without interruption, as far as the first creek, northward of Derby-haven. In approaching the shore from the mountains, the clay-slate becomes less and less shining, exhibiting more the appearance of a mechanical deposit, till it

passes into grey wacké-slate. Here its fresh fracture is dull; and the strata, which, near Douglas, are highly inclined, dip only  $10^{\circ}$  or  $15^{\circ}$ . At this place we find a bluish grey limestone, containing impressions of shells and other marine exuviae. It lies over the grey wacké-slate. The line of stratification is distinct, and in some places filled up with a thin layer of white clay, which seems very pure. The clay does not in the slightest degree effervesce with acids. The limestone contains veins of calcareous spar; and, along the coast, it is much corroded on its surface by the action of the weather. The strata are generally from one to four feet thick, dipping  $10^{\circ}$  or  $15^{\circ}$  towards the south west.

A considerable portion of the lime-stone tract exhibits alternations of lime-stone with grey wacké-slate, the strata of which are but a few inches in thickness. This circumstance demonstrates the lime-stone to belong to the class of rocks denominated by Werner "rocks of transition." This lime-stone, in colour and in the organic remains which it contains, very much resembles the lime-stone of transition found on the mountains near Crook-Inn, on the Moffat

road in Scotland. The clay found in the interstices of some of the strata of lime-stone most probably arises from the decomposition of the grey wacké-slate by the constant action of the weather. Indeed this slate, where exposed to the air, is, for the most part, friable and crumbling.

With the small interruption of the isthmus and promontory of Langness, the lime-stone continues along the winding shore to the further part of Pool-vash bay. Here it is highly indurated, and rests upon a glossy clay-slate intersected by veins of quartz. A little to the south it becomes still more indurated, and is quarried, below high water mark, as a pretty good marble for tomb-stones, the formation of which is facilitated by the increased thinness of the laminæ. The steps to St. Paul's church in London are from these quarries, and were presented by Bishop Wilson.

A short sandy isthmus joins the promontory of Langness to the main land. The promontory and the islet of St. Michael are composed of grey wacké-slate, excepting a small tract, a few yards wide and some hundred yards long, on

the north western side of the promontory, adjoining the sands of Castletown bay. Here we meet with a breccia, composed of rolled pieces of quartz in a siliceous base, resting on a glistening slate. Some of it approaches to horn porphyry.

The inland boundary of the lime-stone tract extends from the creek first mentioned to Balasalla, including that village; and thence, crossing the Castletown river, to Pool-vash bay. At Athol bridge, on the Castletown river, grey wacké-slate is found. Following the stream for a quarter of a mile we find lime-stone, and near it a quartzose rock, like that at Langness: but these are the only places where I have observed it. Continuing our descent, we find a small quantity of compact brown iron-stone, lying immediately under the breccia. It crosses the bed of the river near a mill. The breccia continues for about a hundred yards further, and then gives place to lime-stone.

Clay-slate appears again at Port le Murray bay, and is composed of very thin laminæ with a silky gloss; and much traversed by veins of quartz. The surface of the layers has that

peculiar undulated appearance, which was, I believe, first noticed by Sir James Hall.

Clay-slate constitutes the upper rocky mineral to Spanish head; round, from thence, to Port Erin, and, with little interruption to Peel.

There is a quarry of a very tough clay-slate below high water mark at Spanish-head, which is raised in blocks, ten or twelve feet long, eight, ten, or twelve inches broad, and four, six, or eight inches thick. These are employed for purposes which, in other countries, are effected by beams of wood, as for gate-posts, and alpine bridges over streamlets.

The Calf of Man is a small island, separated from the main by a gut of about one hundred yards. The summit of this island is upwards of five hundred feet above the level of the sea; being nearly equal to the high land of Spanish-head. The strata consist entirely of a glossy bluish-grey clay-slate, more inclined to the east, and less regularly stratified than the slate-rock on the main. I was told that marble was to be found in the Calf; but it proved to be whitish quartz, found sometimes in detached masses; and frequently forming veins in the slate. There

are several huge masses of slate rock separated from this island; one of which, the Borough, is perforated by a natural arch. The circuit of the Calf may be about five miles; its area, six hundred acres.

Between Port Erin and Kirk Arbory, near the latter place, and on the left hand side of the road, are the shafts of lead mines now deserted. Slate, slightly tinged with carbonate of copper, is to be seen amongst the rubbish: whence it is probable that copper ore was found along with the lead.

At Breda-head is a copper mine, chiefly of the sulphuret of copper. The miners being engaged in the more profitable employment of the herring fishery, I was unable to pay it my intended visit; as the way down the cliff to the entrance of the level is considered difficult and dangerous, and no one was willing to accompany me.

Between Castletown and St. John's, and within about two miles of the latter place, are the mines of Foxdale, now drowned. These mines were said to afford a considerable quantity of fine lead glance; and, according to report, would have yielded much profit to the

proprietors, had they been well managed. At present they are deserted. A large water-wheel, and the disjointed iron pipes, once used to drain them, lie scattered around. The rubbish from the shafts consists almost wholly of fragments of slate, mixed with pieces of brown blende, a little lead glance, and some sparry iron ore.

We find in the bottom of the valley, leading from St. John's to Peel, many marine exuvie. Tradition says, that the tide once flowed up this valley, nearly to the base of Mount Kreevey; a circumstance which the appearance of the country and the shells found in the alluvial soil, render highly probable; and which is further strengthened by the discovery of three iron anchors, at a great distance from the present shore, embedded in the same alluvial repository with the shells. The shells are neither petrified nor incorporated with consolidated materials, but simply embedded in the clay and sand of the soil. Here also have been discovered horns of animals, apparently of the stag kind, the largest of which measure nine feet from tip to tip.

A little nearer to Peel than St. John's, we meet with a loose sandy soil, resting on grey wacké-



slate. It stretches northward to Kirk Michael, forming a narrow slip of land, the higher parts being one hundred, or one hundred and fifty feet above the level of the sea, bounded on the left by the ocean, and on the right by land of somewhat greater elevation, which consists chiefly of grey wacké-slate sometimes covered by a bed of common clay. The sand is bounded on the south east by grey wacké-slate strata, which form the boundary of Peel valley in that direction. Peel castle stands on this rock.

The cliff at the northern part of Peel bay is a reddish brown sand-stone, much charged with clay and iron. It sometimes contains fragments of quartz, and assumes the appearance of a breccia. The finest part is used for building; and a quarry is worked at this place a little above high water mark. The softer parts of the coarsest sort, where washed by the waves, have left several deep caverns and grotesque figures in the harder rock. The creeks along the shore exhibit the sand lying upon the slate in every variation of thickness: sometimes, for a short space, it disappears altogether. The sand-stone, being found immediately over slate, is to be regarded as sand-stone of the oldest for-

mation, according to the Wernerian doctrine of the relative antiquity of strata. It corresponds exactly with Professor Jameson's description of the common red sand-stone of the Isle of Arran resting upon mica-slate.

At Kirk Michael the sandy soil expands over the whole northern part of the island in a line nearly west and east. Below this sand lies a bed of very pure common clay, called marl by the inhabitants. It generally lies at the depth of one, two, or three feet, still deeper as the ground is higher, and is very advantageously employed to give consistence to the light sandy soil. It is not from its containing lime that its utility does or could arise. Lime or even shell sand would here be prejudicial. The stimulating power of lime would exhaust such a soil as we now speak of. The chief desideratum is to give it sufficient consistence to retain moisture and to permit the plant to sustain its erect posture by means of its roots. It requires to be renewed every eight or nine years; and the ground bears plentifully, provided there is a proper rotation of green crops, barley, and oats. There is however a real clay-marl found near Ramsey, which contains a considerable portion

of lime, and effervesces with acids. It is dug up at the depth of about eighteen inches, midway between high and low water mark in Ramsey bay. This also is in particular situations used with advantage as a manure. The substratum of clay rests on grey wacké-slate, as appears at the cliffs where the rocks are visible.

In many parts of this flat district peat is found in considerable quantities, usually from six to eight feet thick, and sometimes much more. It rests upon clay, frequently much mixed with sand. Trunks of the pine and of the oak are often observable. The former is accounted the most common, but I saw only the latter. It is black, very hard, quite free from decay, and is sometimes used by cabinet makers. The two sorts of tree are rarely or never found together; the trunks of oak lie in clusters: hence an opinion has been formed that the fir was indigenous to the country, and that the oak, the favourite of the Druids, was brought hither either by such of them as were fortunate enough to escape the retaliating punishment of the army of Suetonius, or by those who fled from Anglesey when that country was finally conquered by Agricola. To have le-

velled these trees with the ground must have required a considerable convulsion of nature; and if they existed alive till the extermination of the Druids from Wales, it seems probable that we should have some tradition of their destruction.

Near Ballaugh, and half a mile from Deemster Cuffin's, upon an eminence, are about ten masses of sienite, three or four feet every way, forming somewhat of a circle.

At Ramsey the slate again commences, and continues to form the coast and country back ward to the chain of mountains, almost to Derby-haven.

Half way between Ramsey and Laxey is said to be found, in a very small vein, a loose friable earth, of a greyish-black colour, softish to the touch, and used by the inhabitants for the cleaning of plate and other purposes. The specimen in my possession was procured from a Laxey miner, whose property it is by gift of the Duke of Athol. It does not effervesce, nor is it very soluble in mineral acids. It probably arises from a partial decomposition of slate.

The neighbourhood of Laxey is chiefly interesting on account of its mines. There are

situated on the banks of Laxey river, about one mile above that village. They are worked by two levels driven from the steep banks of the river. The upper level was begun about thirty years ago, but has not been regularly worked, and is partly filled up with water. It runs to the depth of about one hundred yards, following a vein nearly four feet wide, dipping to the east upwards of one foot in six. The vein consists of quartz, common brown blende, lead glance or galena, and occasionally some copper-green or carbonat of copper. Of the metallic matters the blende is the most abundant, next the lead, and lastly the copper ore. The height of the excavation is from four to fifteen feet, according to the extent or goodness of the ore. Interspersed with the lead glance, a small quantity of phosphat and a very little carbonat of lead have been found, but not in such quantity as to affect the smelting of the more profitable lead ore. For a considerable period the copper ore was disregarded, and thrown away among the rubbish. Some time ago the miners requested and obtained it of the proprietors. What they collected was sold at the rate of 23*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* per ton, a price which shews that

it was not a very pure copper ore. The blende here, as at other mines, was till within these few years thrown away, but is now sold at the rate of seven pounds per ton. This substance, till lately considered of no value, is at present used to glaze the coarser kinds of earthenware. The lead glance of this mine is very rich in silver, one ton of it affording, on assay, one hundred and eighty ounces of silver, or about  $\frac{1}{15}$ th part, according to the report of those employed in the works. This lead ore is therefore the great object of the miner's research. It is common foliated lead glance with a pretty fresh lead-grey colour and strong metallic lustre. It is said that the other lead ores of this island never yielded above, and rarely so much as, seven ounces per ton. Where the copper ore appears in the vein the lead is in small quantity, and even that quantity is poor, being what the miners call burnt. There is a little sulphuret of iron, in the form of a grey powder, found in this mine, which is separated from the other ores, as it would otherwise render them slaggy and impede their smelting.

The new level, which is now carried on, is situated about a quarter of a mile further down.

the river. It is twenty-eight yards below the level of the old excavation. One purpose of it is to drain the old level of its water. When I was there, in the autumn of 1808, it extended about two hundred yards; and three miners were at work upon it. The only metallic substances yet found are carbonat of copper and blende. Its produce hitherto has not been sufficient to pay the expense of working, but the copper ore improves as they proceed.

The rock which the vein traverses is clay-slate, of a great degree of hardness, and somewhat resembles whet-slate in its fracture, which approaches to splintery in the small. It is blasted in the common way. From the frequent accidents that happen in the usual mode of blasting rocks, it would certainly be proper to try the more safe, simple, and expeditious method of covering the cartridge with sand, instead of hammering down fragments of stone to fill up the hole. This method was fully detailed in Nicholson's Journal, about three or four years ago.

All mines belong by prerogative to the Lord-proprietor of the soil. They are let by him to

one company of nine or ten persons, himself being one of these; and he claims, as lessor, one eighth part of their gross produce.

The inclination of the slate increases as we go from Laxey towards Douglas, and it contains more veins of quartz. The general inclination of the strata near Laxey is about  $45^{\circ}$ , but at Clay-head it is from  $70^{\circ}$  to  $75^{\circ}$ .

Some of the slate strata are easily split into thin laminæ, well adapted for the roofs of houses, while others, composed of thicker laminæ, are well adapted for the walls.

About Clay-head and at various other places the clay-slate is often so hard as to have given plentiful sparks of fire as I broke it with my steel hammer. Sometimes I found it in detached masses; sometimes, forming a bed several inches thick, inclosed on each side by the softer slate-rock, here and there firmly adhering to it as a part of the same stone, but more often easily detached. It is not divisible into thin laminæ. It occasionally contains small cubic crystals of iron pyrites. As the quartz veins are less numerous, the slate is softer and more readily splits into thin laminæ. It is usually hardest near the veins. The slate not



unfrequently breaks into rhomboidal fragments, the consequence of its having a double cleavage. These strata form cliffs along the shore from one to two hundred and fifty feet perpendicular, till they are terminated by the sand of Douglas-bay, which, near Douglas, stretches one or two hundred yards up the country. The upper strata are friable from decomposition, and have externally a light iron-brown colour, but internally are bluish-grey.

A little to the northward of Douglas is a bed of clay which has lately been used to form bricks, but they are of a very bad quality. Perhaps the clay found in the northern part of the island would afford a much better kind of brick; but the expense of coal is a great objection; and the abundance of stone, fit for building, renders this manufacture of less importance.

The pier of Douglas harbour is built of yellowish sand-stone: this is not a production of the island; but was imported from the vicinity of Runcorn in Cheshire. Mona castle is built of a very fine, white, and hard sand-stone. This was brought from the Isle of Arran.

From the facts above stated, it appears that

the Isle of Man consists of primitive clay-slate and mica-slate, probably resting upon granite; of grey wacké-slate, and of lime-stone, which seems to belong to the rocks of transition, or those which, in the Wernerian geognosy, are supposed to hold an intermediate place between primitive and flöetz rocks; of sand-stone of the earliest formation ; and of sand resting upon clay.

## CHAPTER II.

*A few words on Manks Zoology.*

**I WISH** it were in my power to give, in the first place, a complete view of the natural state of the island, and then proceed to the improvements made by man. On this plan, botany and the remaining branches of natural history would form one long chapter at the least. Various talents and much time are requisite for the undertaking; and in these, alas! am I deficient. I shall say a very few words upon zoology, and then proceed to agriculture.

The birds observable upon the coasts are *Larus Fuscus*, white and grey, and *L. Ridibundus*, gulls; *Pelecanus Bassanus*, jannet; *P. Carbo*, cormorant; *P. Graculus*, shag; *Ardea Major*, heron; *Corvus Cornix*, Royston crow. The birds of passage that spend the breeding season upon the Calf are said to consist of eight species, among which are the *Alca Arctica*, puffin, and *A. Torva*, razor-bill. I was not there till September; and the rocks had been

long deserted. The puffin is extremely fat, and is reckoned by some a great delicacy. They build their nests in rabbit burrows, and so abundant were they that five thousand young ones were annually taken without any apparent diminution of the number. Some years ago a large Russian merchant vessel was wrecked upon the coast. The crew of sailors perished; but many rats escaped to shore, and, taking possession of the nearest burrows, almost exterminated the poor puffins. Not one was taken for many years afterwards. A few are now occasionally seen, and it is thought that their number is increasing. Colonel Towndley says, that the sea-parrots which are found here, meaning, I suppose, the puffins, make excellent soup. What Chaloner said of the animals of this spot I will transcribe. "In the Calf of Man is a curious sort of sea-fowl called puffins, of a very unctuous constitution, which breed in the coney-holes, (the conies leaving their burrows for that time,) are never seen with their young, but either very early in the morning or late in the evening; nourishing, as is conceived, their young, with oil which, drawn from their own

constitution, is dropped into their mouths; for, that being opened, there is found in their crops no other sustenance but a single sorrel leaf, which the old give their young for digestion's sake, as is conjectured. The flesh of these birds is nothing pleasant, fresh, because of their rank and fish-like taste; but, pickled or salted, they may be ranked with anchovies, caviare, or the like: but profitable they are in their feathers and oil, of which they make great use about their wool. Here are some ayries of mettled falcons that build in the rocks, great store of conies, red deer; and, in the summer time, arrive here out of Ireland and the western parts of Scotland many of those small hawks called merlyns." I observed *Scolopax Arquata*, the curliu, about the Calf; and it is probably not uncommon in some other places. I did not see in the Isle of Man any inland birds which are uncommon in the neighbouring counties. Wilson mentions the existence of eagles in his time. The airy last known was upon Snawfel.

Hares are not very common for want of cover; and the birds which the sportsman expects

to meet with are, partridges, woodcocks; grouse, snipes and wild ducks. Partridges are in some seasons very plentiful; and one of the Laxey miners told me that, a few days before my visit to the mines, he had killed thirteen at one shot. Whether he made use of a gun or drew his long bow I did not inquire.

I did not hear of any fresh-water fish except the trout. Fish of this species, generally small, abound in many rivers. I was in company with one gentleman, very fond of angling, who caught with a fly in the Peel river, in the course of a month, one hundred and one dozen.

Some beautiful species of *Molussa*, the *Actinea Rufa* Lin., are seen adhering to the rocks where pools are formed, waiting for their prey with extended arms. Of this genus perhaps may be the battlecock mentioned by Townley. It is said to possess nearly all the desirable properties of the turtle, not excepting the green fat, and to make excellent soup. Although some gelatinous animals are not, in their natural form, very tempting to the eye, I know not why they should not make a nutritious and perhaps palatable soup. What could be more

disgusting at first sight than the periwinkle or the oyster, unless the turtle itself be excepted?

Noxious reptiles are not to be found. Whether they would be able to live and multiply is not agreed upon. Giraldus notes a dispute between the Kings of England and of Ireland for this little domain, which was agreed to be amicably settled by the introduction of venomous reptiles from England which would not live in Ireland. The reptiles lived, and the King of England consequently took possession of it.\*

This island, like the Hebrides, is destitute of woods and of almost all trees not planted. Sometimes I observed a little brushwood, and at others have had pointed out to me places where bushes and hazle trees used to grow. The subject reminds me of a speech of Dr. Johnson, rather surly to be sure, made to the proprietor of one of the Scottish isles, when talking of his woods: "Sir, I have had pointed out to me what I took for heath: if you could shew me any thing like furze

\* Hollinshed's Chronicles, fo. Vol. I. p. 37.

it would be something." Furze requires a better soil than heath. It is plentiful on the uncultivated, low, and hilly lands of Man, but does not appear upon the mountains.



## CHAPTER III.

*On the Population, Climate, Buildings, and  
Agriculture of the Island.*

**B**EDE relates that in his time (the eighth century) the population of the island did not exceed three hundred families.\* He calls the Isles of Man and of Anglesea, *Insulæ Menaviæ*, distinguishing one by the Northern, the other by the Southern Menavia.† Hollinshed, who wrote in the year 1584, says, "there were formerly thirteen hundred families in this island, but now scarcely half that number. In the year 1667 the island contained 2531 men between the ages of sixteen and sixty years.

Here follows a detailed account of the population at three distinct periods, the years 1726, 1757, and 1792.

\* Ecclesiastical History, Book II. Chap. 9.

† Petrus Bertius Beverus, editor of Ptolemy's Geography, supposes the *Menaviæ* of Bede to be the *Hebudæ* or *Hebrides*: but this can hardly be the case, since Bede speaks of them as only two. Ε βλῆτε β. Κεφ. β.

Parishes and Towns.	Inhabitants		
	1726	in 1757	1792
Kirk Michael . . . . .	643	826	1003
Ballaugh . . . . .	806	773	1015
Jurby . . . . .	483	467	713
Andreas . . . . .	967	1067	1555
Bride . . . . .	612	629	678
Lezayre . . . . .	1309	1481	1791
Maughold . . . . .	529	759	2007
Ramsey . . . . .	460	882	
Lonan . . . . .	547	869	1408
Oncan . . . . .	370	434	690
Braddon . . . . .	780	1121	5045
Douglas . . . . .	810	1814	
Marown . . . . .	580	658	842
Santon . . . . .	376	507	512
Malew . . . . .	890	1466	3333
Castletown . . . . .	785	915	
Balasalla . . . . .	360		
Arbory . . . . .	661	785	1143
Kirk Christ Rushen . .	813	1007	1590
Patrick . . . . .	745	954	2153
German . . . . .	510	925	2505
Peel town . . . . .	475	805	
	14511	19144	27913

At the present time the number of inhabitants is thought to be more than 30,000, a population nearly proportionate to that of England. This continual increase is probably owing to an improving state of agriculture, a greater division of property, and a more extended cultivation of the potatoe.

The following is a list of baptisms, marriages, and burials in 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, and 1796.

	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1792	768	181	330
1793	824	180	370
1794	732	195	562
1795	802	184	413
1796	767	175	430

In Braddon parish the burials exceed the number of baptisms; but in every other parish fall far short of them. The most prominent feature of the statement is the great excess of births over the number of burials. This is accounted for, but not satisfactorily, by the annual emigrations of the poor, who for want of employment at home seek a maintenance abroad. Even the baptisms are very low for maintaining

thirty thousand people, and, without any emigration at all, would require a very long average of life.

The climate of the Isle of Man is rather milder in winter than that of the neighbouring shores; frost and snow being of very short continuance. The heat of summer, on the other hand, is not so great: the harvests are consequently late: the grain does not arrive at its full size; and the straw for fodder is less valuable. Frosts seldom make their appearance before Christmas, and latterly have been so slight as little to impede vegetation. Gales of wind and falls of rain are frequent, and of long duration. In the spring of the year, they render the seed-ing difficult and less complete, and are very prejudicial to the tender shoots of corn.

The land is chiefly divided into small farms, from one hundred and fifty to two hundred acres each. A spirit of improvement is more general than it used to be; and much common land has lately been inclosed.

Taking the tithes in kind, a customary method, is a great impediment to agriculture, and much disliked. Were the tithe commuted for a settled

sum of money, the good effects of such a practice would soon be visible.

Leases are limited by law to twenty-one years, a great check to agricultural improvement. Till the year 1777, the law respecting them was much more prejudicial, the lease always expiring with the life of the lessor. A person who attempts the cultivation of a barren heath does not expect to receive any benefit from the produce of the soil for the first eight or ten years. During this period at least, the profit arises from the better state of the soil, and the trees and hedges which may have been planted: and what tenant would be mad enough to commence the cultivation of land upon a twenty-one years' lease, knowing, as he must do, that the landowner would enjoy all the profits. Hence it is that land is little improved, unless farmed by the owner; and land-holders and farmers being such distinct classes of society, this rarely happens to be the case to any considerable degree. The laws respecting leases, in common with other arbitrary laws, were made for the good of the governor, not for that of the subject: the former apprehending that long leases would diminish or do away sales; and that the fines, due to

him upon alienation, would be thereby evaded. The usual time of entering upon a farm is the 12th of November, and the rent is commonly paid half yearly. The covenant of a lease generally binds the tenant to keep the buildings and fences in repair. It frequently obliges him to spend upon the farm, if not in the neighbourhood of a town, or near the sea, the whole produce of the hay, straw, and manure, and not to take from any part of the land more than three crops of grain in succession.

Land in the vicinity of towns is chiefly in the possession of their inhabitants, who, after reserving what is necessary for the use of their families, send the remaining produce to market. From 2*l.* to 3*l.* per acre is sometimes given, but 30*s.* or 35*s.* is a more common price; and the lots are usually very small. Farms are sometimes let for a guinea or even 25*s.*: those at a distance from 12*s.* to 20*s.*; uplands 5*s.* and upwards; but rents everywhere are evidently rising. The measure of the English statute acre is universal.

The common, or uncultivated land, is estimated at rather more than one-third of the

island. It includes the whole of the mountain chain, nearly to its base. Horses, cattle, and sheep are turned to graze upon it. They have, each, a fore and hind-leg tied together with a straw-band, to prevent their straying far, and to increase the facility of catching them. An animal thus served is, in the appellation of the Manks, *lanketted*. The ever-green furze yields them the chief nourishment in winter. Sheep can eat only the young shoots, and keep the bushes so round and even, that they appear to have been under the hands of the pruner. That necessity is the mother of invention is a proverb, not applicable to mankind alone. Horses, being accustomed to take in larger mouthfuls and longer branches than the sheep, cannot eat the furze in its natural state, on account of the prickles. When confined to this kind of food, they trample upon the branches, and paw them with their fore-feet, till the prickles become mashed together or rubbed off; and so completely do they perform their work, that the food thus prepared might be squeezed by the bare hand with impunity. I am informed, that there is no other place, except Anglesea, in

which they are driven to the exercise of a similar sagacity.

The inclosures are usually from four to ten acres, with fences unaccountably crooked and irregular. The common fence is composed of sods of earth, reaching to the height of four or five feet. It requires frequent repairs. Gorze or furze is often planted on the top, making the fence more secure for the time; but in the course of three or four years, if not cut down, before the expiration of that period, completely destroying it. A wall of uncemented stones is another common fence, and more easily repaired. The quickset is little used, and is supposed not to flourish in a westerly aspect. The gateposts, composed of stone and mortar, are remarkably and unnecessarily stupendous, being often square or rhomboidal figures of three feet each way. Only the gate itself is made of wood.

Houses of the best sort, both in town and country, are built of hewn sone: those of an inferior kind, and even very good ones, of stone unhewn. Some of the latter kind, in Douglas, let as high as 40*l.* per annum. Sash lines and weights, even to sash windows, are rarely to be



seen, the people still continuing the barbarous method of supporting the sash at one invariable height by an iron catch. The farm-houses and offices of this island are generally small, irregular, and ill constructed. Some modern ones are upon a better plan; and some few estates are well supplied with offices and barns. A common custom, and one every way bad, is to have the barn over the cow-house. Open stables are still too much in use. The farm-houses, and, indeed, most of the cottages are built of unhewn stone; the former with a mortar, the latter with a mud, cement: the former with a roof of slate, the latter with one of straw. The meaner cottages are constructed of sods of earth, and resemble those of North Wales, consisting usually of two rooms on the ground, sometimes with, sometimes without, a solitary window. The thatch is of straw, and is kept in its proper place by bands of the same material, twelve or eighteen inches apart, crossing each other at right angles, thereby dividing into squares the superficies of the roof. Each end of every band is fixed to a pin, stuck into the mud wall. The smoke of a peat-fire is intended to issue at a hole at one corner of the roof left for that pur-

pose; but the greater part usually takes possession of the room, and emerges thence by the door-way. The walls of such a cottage are very durable; but the thatch will not last longer than two years; whereas an English thatch will last fourteen.

The roads have been for a long time in an improving state. Forty years ago they were dangerous for horsemen in winter, and for carriages even in summer. At present, though very good in summer, they are sometimes, in winter, impassable for many days together. There are only three chief, or carriage, roads; from Douglas to Castletown: from Douglas to Peel: and from Castletown to Ramsay. The clay-slate with which they are made and repaired is soon ground into a sort of clay. About Balasalla and Castletown limestone is used, and makes an excellent road. By the statute of 1776, new high roads were ordered to be eight yards wide, to have ditches on each side, and to be well gravelled at top. The term gravel must be used in a very indefinite sense, since there is not any, nor, I believe, a piece of flint upon the island. The funds for making and repairing them will be noticed in the chapter on revenue.

Light ploughs are generally preferred to others; and almost all are procured from England or Scotland. Those made by Mr. Small, of Ford, in Scotland, are held in most esteem. The horses being small and not strong, four are required to turn a furrow four inches deep. Some harrows are of a good construction; but many of them are too light, and consume in time more than they save in labour. The roller, varying in weight from five hundred to one thousand pounds, is often used after a sowing of grass seed: and, when followed by a brush harrow, is a valuable implement in spreading manure. Drilling and hoeing machines are not very common.

The proper construction of wheel carriages seems little understood. Cart-wheels are invariably very narrow and generally small. In getting in a harvest, I observed many sledges to one cart; frequently no cart at all. Crops of small fields are often carried home upon men's shoulders; and this is the usual way of collecting a tithe.

Dressing corn by fanners is the practice on most farms. A few but not many threshing machines are in use.

For live stock farmers rely more upon importation than their own rearing.

The usual number of horses allowed for husbandry, on the low land farms, is one team of two or three horses, from thirteen to fifteen hands high, to thirty acres of tillage. The upland farmers use double the number, but of a smaller size, and of the native breed, which appears similar to that of North Wales. Horned cattle are numerous; but the old stock, for want of care, is nearly lost. They were short legged and thick bodied, and more profitable to fatten than reserve for milk. Twelve quarts of a rich quality was the average return, producing nearly two quarts of cream, yielding sixteen ounces of butter. A few barrel-churns are used, but plunge-churns are the most common.

Sheep are fed chiefly on the up-lands. The ancient stock is very small and hardy, much like the south-down of England, and endures the severest weather. When fat, their usual weight is from five to eight pounds per quarter. Their meat is excellent. This is still the breed upon the uplands and mountains; but in the low lands a larger sort has been introduced. Two pounds and a half is the average weight of the fleeces of

the small sheep, and six or seven pounds of the large ones. It is not of the finest or longest staple. The sheep are not washed previously to their being sheared. Besides the two sorts already mentioned, there is a peculiar breed called Laughton, having wool of a light brown or snuff colour. These are not accounted hardy, and are more difficult to fatten than the other sorts. The cloth made of their wool is much liked by the natives, and on this account only is the breed preserved. A writer of the sixteenth century says, "the Manks sheep are exceeding huge, with tails of an almost incredible magnitude: the hogs are monstrous.\*" Sheep, in this country, are subject to a peculiar and fatal disease, called by the natives *Ouw*, supposed to be owing to the eating of the hydrocotyle vulgaris, marsh pennywort. Its leaf is said to corrode the liver; and, on opening a sheep that has died of the disease, to be found attached thereto, transformed into an animal, having apparent life and motion, but retaining its primitive vegetable shape. Dr. Withering attributes the rot in sheep to a flat insect, the fasciola hepatica, fluke,

\* Hollinshed's Chronicles, Vol. I. p. 38.

which is found in wet situations, adhering to stones and plants, and likewise in the livers and biliary ducts of sheep affected with this complaint.

Almost every cottager keeps one or two pigs. They are reared on the offal of the houses, run about the lanes, and are killed at the age of ten or twelve months. Potatoes and grains contribute to their maintenance in summer; and potatoes, either boiled or raw, with some little corn, is the food used for fattening them. Their average weight is fifty pounds per quarter, and their price does not much exceed half that of beef or mutton,

Poultry, though numerous, does not exceed that limited quantity which the farmer can keep with little expence. Geese and ducks are common, but turkeys are not plentiful.

The country is sufficiently populous for the extent of cultivated ground; but, the herring-fishery engaging the attention of so many men and small farmers during the summer or autumnal months, is a great check to agriculture, and renders labour scarce. Another bad effect of it is, that it teaches habits of so much irregularity and idleness, that the people employed in it never

become good labourers, and are, generally speaking, a very lazy and drunken class. The custom is greatly felt by those who have much corn to reap or grass to cut: the getting in of the harvest is very tedious, for want of sufficient hands; and it is often much injured by the weather. I have known hay cut for many weeks before the farmer could get it carried, and sometimes not stacked before the end of September. The women, unaccustomed to the irregular lives of the men, partake not of their indolent disposition. Four-fifths of the farming business fall to their share. They are reckoned very expert in reaping and in digging potatoes, and perform not amiss many other parts of husbandry. A mower cuts in a day about three quarters of an acre of grass; and five female reapers, with one to bind, cut an acre of corn. The practice is to cut the corn as close to the ground as possible. Stocks of wheat consist of ten sheaves, and are never topped: stocks of barley have twelve sheaves, and are covered. The average produce of an acre is sixty sheaves; but their number varies greatly. Mowing corn has been tried, by way of experiment, but is not much practised. Hours of work are from six to six,

in summer, allowing two hours for meals and a rest at noon; they are from eight to four, in winter, allowing the same time for meals, but no rest at noon. The price of labour is continually increasing. Men get, during the harvest, one shilling per day, and women, ten-pence, besides provisions: and the quantity of work effected is very inferior to that of the opposite shores. A ploughman expects from eight to ten guineas a-year, and a boy three. Some of the experienced Scotch labourers have been procured at double wages, and found a great acquisition to the farmers.

The labouring class of people live upon butter-milk, potatoes, barley-cakes, stir-about, and herrings. The barley-meal is kneaded with a very little water, and rolled to the thickness of one-sixth of an inch. It is then baked upon a plate of iron over a peat fire, and usually has a stronger flavour of smoke than of barley. Oatmeal is occasionally, but not very often, substituted. Leavened bread is little known and little liked. Stir-about, well known in Ireland, is composed of oatmeal and water boiled: this is their common breakfast: herrings are a frequent part of their dinner, salted, not dried: and their



last meal is either stir-about, or potatoes and milk. A labourer usually has a piece of potatoe ground, and sometimes a cow.

Much land has been improved by draining, and a good deal more requires it. The covered drains are usually two feet nine inches deep, nine inches wide at bottom, and two feet at top. They are filled up one-half with stones, and on them a layer, either of straw, or neatly pared turf, to prevent the mould from getting in. On stiff clayey land they have been constructed, and found to answer, without stones, the drain being narrower, and the turf resting upon a ledge on each side. The ditches are, in general, too shallow, and not kept clean. A northern tract of two thousand acres, six miles long, has been converted from a marsh to arable and pasture land by a drain of ten feet wide and six deep. The soil is peat-moss and clay. When I saw it (in 1808) the drain was full to the brim, with marshy land about it, and seemed to require clearing. There are several other open drains.

For a manure farmers rely chiefly on farm-yard dung, and, if near the shore, on sea-weed. The latter is either used immediately for corn or potatoes, or forms a part of a valuable compost.

For barley it is particularly useful ; but is totally expended by a second crop. Plough oxen, steers, heifers, and dry cattle, consume the oat and barley straw. The aged cattle are kept in houses: the young, in yards or the corners of dry pastures, with the liberty of ranging the fields in the day-time. Lime is an excellent and durable manure upon soils of clay or peat; but the expence of quarrying and of burning it prevents its being greatly used. The sweepings of the herring houses, were it not for their limited application, would be very profitable to the farmer. A soil of sand is highly improved by a layer of the clay found a few feet beneath the surface. From three to four hundred loads, of ten hundred weight each, are put upon every acre. After it is crumbled to pieces by the winter rains and frosts, the land is put in tillage. The northern flat is rendered by this treatment the most fertile of any in the island. Its chief produce is barley, a considerable portion of which is sent annually to Douglas.

Arable land is laid out in ridges of various sizes: those of peas, wheat, or oats, from four to nine feet wide; of barley, from twelve to twenty feet. High ridges are never used, the

depth of soil being seldom sufficient to admit them.

A regular rotation of crops is little understood or practised. The one most approved is this: the first crop, potatoes or turnips, well manured; the second, barley; the third, clover; the fourth, oats; sometimes, if good land, wheat; the fifth, peas, or oats, if wheat has gone before. A poor soil, after having sustained two or three rotations, is often suffered to stock itself with natural grasses. This is the work of several years. For a few years more it is surrendered to pasture, and then subjected to another rotation of crops. Heathy land, not being sandy, is improved mostly with thorough fallowing and liming, and, after a few crops, is sown with grass seeds: but, unless these soils have frequent dressings and tillage, they return to their original state. Summer fallowing is little practised.

The cultivation of wheat is not general, chiefly on account of its being subject to the smut in this climate. The red sort of seed is the most common, and is usually sown immediately after the potatoes are dug up, in November or December. The return is, usually, from twenty-four to thirty-six bushels per acre. It is always

sold by the actual weight of sixty-four pounds to the estimated bushel. Five thousand pounds' worth of flour is annually imported. About half the corn land is used in the cultivation of barley. Two sorts are sown, the four-rowed, which is fit only for malt; and the two-rowed, the meal of which is used for the unleavened bread. The four-rowed requires the earliest sowing, and is ripe a fortnight before the other sort. Seed time is from the middle of April to the middle of May. The usual allowance of seed per acre is from three and a half to four and a half bushels, and the average return, thirty-six. Nearly the other half of corn land is used in the cultivation of oats. Two sorts are sown, the white and the Poland. The first, being hardy and not very liable to shake, is generally preferred. Seed time is from the beginning of March to the middle of April. The allowance of seed is five or six bushels per acre, and the average return thirty. Beans are not much cultivated, owing to the lateness and wetness of the harvest. Grey and white peas are in common use, and are sown in the month of April. The allowance of seed is two and a half bushels per acre, and the return about twenty bushels. This is a crop

which tends to meliorate the soil, and render it more fit for corn. Little rye is cultivated, and the grain is not in demand. The inhabitants are very partial to potatoes. There are many sorts, and various modes of cultivation. The time of planting is from the end of March to the middle of May; the sets, first planted, yielding the most mealy potatoes; but those, last planted, the greatest crops. Eighteen or twenty bushels are the common allowance of sets. Their return depends greatly upon the care taken in weeding and hoeing, and is generally from one hundred and sixty to two hundred bushels. With extraordinary attention three hundred bushels have been obtained. The digging up is performed with a three-lined fork. A good labourer will raise eight heaped bushels in a day without the assistance of a picker. They are generally preserved in large heaps, out of doors, defended from the frost by straw packed close round them, and beyond this, sods of turf, with the grass side outermost. Turnips appear to be well suited to the climate, and their use is becoming annually more general. The common winter seed is the sort sown. Crops of carrots and of turnip-rooted cabbage have been tried; but from

want of management, or some other cause, were not found profitable. Flax, in small quantities, is very general, but not enough is grown for the manufactures of the island. One plot rarely exceeds one quarter or one half of an acre. It is always sown on land in good condition, often after potatoes, but never after corn. April is the time for sowing it, and the usual allowance of seed is eighteen gallons per acre. The weeds should be removed as they appear, till the land be completely covered. By the middle or end of July it is pulled, and laid in water for a week, by which time the pith is putrified, and is readily parted from the other substance. It is then spread on a pasture to dry, till it is found, upon examination, to be fit for scutching, or dressing at the mill. This is an operation which disjoins the fibres and separates them from the bark. The process of boiling the flax, as recommended by the Bath Agricultural Society, has been tried here; but the expence of it was found to exceed the value of the flax. The culture of flax, owing to the uncertainty of the weather, is a very speculative branch of husbandry. Hemp is never sown, except in gardens, and not much there. Sown grasses are so

essentially useful, that almost every farmer sows grass or clover with his spring crop. The red clover is very eligible, either to be eaten by cattle or cut for hay. The former practice is the most beneficial to the land; and, if the clover be abundant, so will generally be the ensuing crop of corn. Ray grass seed is commonly sown with the clover, but by this practice the land is impoverished. Ten pounds of red clover, and two bushels of grass seed per acre, are the usual allowance for a hay crop. White and red clover, and white hay seeds are thought to yield the best pasture.

Markets for provisions are ordered to be held at each of the four towns; but only at Douglas are they regular. Fairs for the sale of horses, cattle, and wearing apparel, the manufacture of the island, and for the hiring of servants, are numerous; and about six are very well attended. There is no market or fair for grain, and those likely to want any generally make a contract with the farmers as soon as the harvest is got in.

Two modes of agricultural improvement have been long proposed. The first is the establishment of a Manks Agricultural Society; now, in some degree, carried into effect by the extension of

the Cumberland society to this island, which will not, I fear, prove of much advantage to the inhabitants. The other is, a conversion of the tithe, now payable in kind, into an unalterable sum of money, equal to its present value. To these two may be added a third, that of lengthening the term of leases. \*

\* For the ground-work of this chapter I am indebted to Mr. Quayle's Agricultural Report.



## CHAPTER IV.

*On the Manufactures of the Island.*

**I**N so low a state, till lately, were manufactures and mechanics, that the inhabitants had not mills enough to grind their wheat, being in the practice of exporting it and importing flour. The first, upon a large scale, was erected by Major Taubman; and, from being in the vicinity of his seat, is called the Nunnery mill. Several others have been since built; but the chief business is supposed to be done here.

How far the introduction of manufactories might be expedient and likely to answer the purpose of the manufacturer, would be an amusing and useful inquiry. Those established for articles consumed by the natives only must, of course, be of small magnitude, and if there be not too many will necessarily succeed, provided no peculiar obstacles arise. Of this class are breweries, candle and soap manufactories, tanneries, and some others, which the freedom from excise laws tends greatly to encourage. Malting

and brewing being uncontrolled, ale and beer may be made for considerably less than half the price which they cost in England. These last mentioned trades, centering in the same person, are, probably, the chief in the island: and, judging from the quality of the ale, and the number of people who daily get intoxicated with it, particularly in the fishing season, the business of brewer must be extremely profitable. The fondness of the people to ale does not however diminish their attachment to spirits. Townley imagines that nearly half the inhabitants die of the *grog consumption*, which complaint, he facetiously adds, is accounted very catching and infectious. Candles and soap are comparatively dear. The business of the tanner is chiefly confined to Manks skins and hides, and he does not make sufficient, or sufficiently good, leather for the supply of the natives. The article is reckoned much inferior to that imported from England.

These trades are considered profitable in proportion to their extent: but the question is materially altered when we inquire into the expediency of manufacturing goods for exportation, or of erecting manufactories which are not likely

to answer, except upon a large scale. No products of the island are in sufficient abundance to be manufactured for foreign use. Whatever articles are employed for this purpose must therefore be first imported. The eligibility of establishing manufactories is reckoned to arise from the number of small, rapid rivulets, and the consequent convenience of erecting mills: and I have not heard the most sanguine speak of the probable success of introducing any such as do not require mill-work. The cheapness of labour, the freedom from excise laws, and, in a great measure, from custom-house duties, are not sufficient inducements: for labour is nearly as cheap in the north of England, and quite as cheap in Ireland; and manufactured articles, if admitted at all, would be charged with the customary duty at any port of the British dominions, greater indeed than the excise upon the manufacture in those countries. The discretionary power, claimed and used by the English Government, respecting all matters where revenue is directly or indirectly concerned, somewhat damps the ardour of the speculatist. Distilleries are absolutely prohibited, under the penalty of forfeiting for every offence 200*l.* besides the

implements used in the process. Some years ago a cotton-spinning manufactory was established at Balasalla by Messrs. De-la-primés. They intended not to weave the yarn, but to send it to Lancashire. By these means most of the duty on cotton would have been evaded. I was informed that it was the opinion of an eminent counsellor, consulted upon the occasion, that the scheme might be carried into execution, either in the Isle of Man or the Isle of Skye. How such an idea could be entertained I cannot conjecture, since an act of 5th Geo. III. expressly prohibits the importation from Man into Britain of any foreign goods, hemp and flax excepted, whether in their raw state, or wholly or partly manufactured, either with or without any native materials. Previously to this period, the laws were still more severe.\* The speculation was soon discovered to be vain, and the mill-work was afterwards used in the manufacture of twine for fishing-nets; but owing to the circumstance of the fishermen usually, in their leisure time, making their nets from the raw material, the second project was no more successful than the first. Flax mills have been

\* See 15th Charles II.

lately introduced. The demand for linen goods, including sail-cloth, is greater than that for cotton, and the expense of the machinery much less. They are therefore more likely to answer here. Those belonging to Messrs. Moores, near Douglas, though, I believe, the newest, are reckoned the most considerable. The spinning is by machinery throughout, two hundred and forty spindles, performing the work of an equal number of people, being constantly at work, attended by only ten or a dozen children, and one overseer. The weaving is by hand. Here they make sheeting, towelling, sail-cloth, and sack-cloth. One woollen manufactory has been established within these few years; and the home consumption may reasonably be supposed sufficient to keep it at work. The proprietor uses chiefly the fleeces of the Manks sheep, and has, in some cases, adopted the system of barter, exchanging a certain quantity of cloth for a certain quantity of wool.

Under existing circumstances I cannot think expedient the establishment of manufactories upon a large scale for the purpose of exportation. England usually takes care to allow a

drawback upon manufactured goods, subject, in their raw state, to heavy duties, in order to preserve her trade in foreign markets. I cannot therefore imagine, that the Isle of Man can vie with her in commerce.

## CHAPTER V.

*On the Trade of the Island.*

**COMMERCE**, like the arts and sciences, increases gradually from a small beginning, and most flourishes where least restrained by law. In this country it was subject to a most singular regulation, which prevailed to the middle or latter end of the seventeenth century. That my relation of the practice may not to any one appear chimerical, I shall merely transcribe the words of my authority. "There are four merchants which are ever chosen by the country; which choice is usually made at the Tynwald court, and sworn by the deemsters to deal truly, and most for the country's profit: these, for the present, are Mr. John Stanley and Mr. Philip Moor, for the south side; and Mr. Thomas Crelling and Mr. David Christian, for the north side. These, when any ship of salt, wines, pitch, iron, or other commodities good for the use of the country comes into the island, the Governor, having first consulted with the mer-

chant-stranger about the rates and prices of the commodities, he sends then for these four merchants of the country, to appear before him and the merchant-stranger, and drives a bargain, if he can, betwixt them: if he cannot agree with them, he commands the four merchants to spend another day with the merchant-stranger, to deal with him if they can. And whatsoever bargain is made by the said four merchants, the country is to stand to it, and take the commodities of the merchant-stranger, and pay for them according to the rates agreed upon: which most commonly is, that the country are to bring in their commodities of wool, hides, tallow, and such like; and for the same have their equal commodities of salt, wine, iron, pitch, &c. so brought in and compounded for as aforesaid. And if the commodities brought in by the country will not extend to the value of the stranger's commodities, then the four merchants are to assess the rest of the commodities upon the country, every one his equal proportion; for which they are to pay ready money, as the four merchants had agreed for them. So by this means the merchant-stranger is much encouraged to bring in necessary things for the island; and the



people have, by the faithfulness of the four merchants, the full benefit of the commodity brought in ; which otherwise some private man of the country might and would have taken for his own profit : and this is an especial benefit for the enriching of the people, and for the general good \*."

The present exports of this island are strong linens and sail-cloth, their annual value being from 5000*l.* to 10,000*l.*; herrings, varying in quantity with the success of the fishery ; lead, or lead ore, fowls, butter, a few eggs, and some other trifling articles.

The report of the commissioners, appointed by his majesty to inquire into the state of Man, furnishes the following list of exports for the year 1790 :

*To Great Britain.*

1743 bushels potatoes,

1313 crocks butter,

201 boxes and baskets of eggs,

\* See King's Description of the Isle of Man, published with his Vale Royal, London, 1656, fol. p. 30. This short treatise is the work of James Chaloner, who, with Robert Dynely and Joshua Witton, were appointed by Thomas Lord Fairfax, Lord of Man, commissioners to inquire into the revenue, government, religion, and learning of this island. The dedication to his Lordship is dated Dec. 1, 1653.

7 barrels pork,  
1½ ditto, beef,  
195 cow and ox hides in hair,  
57 dozen calf-skins,  
4 cwt. leather,  
1400 cow and ox horns,  
26 cwt. cow and ox hair,  
4 cwt. honey,  
1335 cwt. kelp,  
2 cwt. wax,  
17 cwt. wool and woollen yarn,  
159 cwt. linen yarn,  
69 tons lead ore,  
258 dozen rabbit-skins.

*To Ireland.*

103 doz. rabbit-skins,  
11 cwt. feathers,  
50 cwt. bacon,  
2 tons cotton twist,  
143 tons limestone,  
282 tons marble and paving stones,  
102 tons slate,  
1807 reams coarse paper,  
17 cwt. fern ashes,  
1 cwt. hair powder,

130 hanks candle wicks,  
1 tombstone,  
3 qurs. of cwt. dried beef.

In the same year were exported to Great Britain,

1878 barrels white herrings,  
2747 barrels red herrings :

*To other parts.*

125 barrels white herrings,  
6866 barrels red herrings.

In ten years, beginning with 1781, and ending with 1790, the year first alluded to, were exported to Great Britain,

506,365 yards linen,  
727 horses,  
4019 black cattle,  
238 sheep,  
248 pigs,  
1 mule,  
4 goats :

*To Ireland.*

1,564 yards linen,  
113 horses,  
4 black cattle,  
12 mules,

The imports are manufactured goods of almost every description, chiefly from Liverpool; coal from Liverpool, and from the ports of Cumberland; wine from Oporto and Guernsey; brandy and geneva from Guernsey; and rum from England: the balance of trade being greatly against the island. The deficiency may, perhaps, be made up by remittances to strangers, who, in order to avoid the sight of a bailiff, or the extravagance of English living, take up their temporary or permanent abode in this country.

Gold coin is not plentiful, and silver coin is very scarce. The copper coinage is peculiar to the island, fourteen Manks pence making one English shilling. Greenock guinea notes are the chief substitute for gold. Mr. Scott, the collector of the customs, being a partner in the Greenock bank, has, in most of the notes, the initials of his name in water-mark, and gives them every currency in his power. The merchants and manufacturers are very desirous of preventing any inconvenience that might arise from the scarcity of silver, by issuing as many as they can of their one-shilling, half-a-crown, three-shilling, five-shilling, and seven-shilling tickets or cards. One of these is usually accom-

panied with the motto, "pro bono publico;" and the form of the engagement generally runs thus: "I promise to pay the bearer on demand ——— shillings, on his bringing the change of a one pound note." Tickets with only one signature are not much liked, since, in case of the death of the party, the executors are not obliged to pay his debts till the expiration of three years.

Till the act of revestment in 1765, and the subsequent regulations, the chief business of the place was smuggling. The annual returns of this trade exceeded 350,000*l.* and by some were estimated so high as half a million, while the value of seizures was not more than 10,000*l.* so that the profits to those engaged in it were probably enormous. The Duke of Athol, having a small duty upon imports, rather encouraged than set his face against it. The place formed completely the harbour and the store-house of smugglers, whence they shipped their goods, as occasion offered, to England, Ireland, or Scotland, to the great detriment of the British revenue. Many persons being by its failure thrown out of employment, emigrated to America; some went to sea; some engaged themselves in the fisheries; and others turned their

attention to the cultivation of the ground. To exchange an irregular and idle life for one of constant activity and industry is no easy achievement: the waste lands and short crops evince how much remains to be done.

The following is an extract from an account of the smuggling trade, written about 1753: {

“The English government perhaps do not know to what a height it is come. The captain of a cruiser did venture to do his duty by following a valuable Dutch dogger into port and seizing her. But the man found himself mistaken. Acts of parliament and English commissions could not protect him in that petty principality. Five of his men, who had taken possession of the dogger, were thrown into a gaol, where they will probably lie till their death. The captain himself with two men and a boy narrowly escaped to Whitehaven. Quere, whether the Officers of the Isle of Man are not guilty of an act of rebellion in seizing the king's boats and arms?

“The loss to the revenue, upon the most moderate calculation, is, at least, 200,000*l.* a year.

“In short, this island may be looked upon as

a fortress in the hands of our enemies: and the whole question is, whether we ought to dispossess them or not; a question that admits of no dispute." \*

Since the year 1765, the contraband trade has been nearly annihilated. The little that is now done is supposed to be by means of coasting vessels, or of ships, which, on account of bad wind or weather, anchor for a short time in some of the harbours of the island.

\* Postlewaite's Commercial Dictionary, fol. vol. ii.

## CHAPTER VI.

*On the Herring and the Herring Fishery.*

THE herring fishery, giving rise to the chief commerce of the Isle of Man, I shall a little enlarge upon, beginning with the natural history of the fish, extracted from the approved works of Pennant, Shaw, Bloch, and occasionally Buffon, generally retaining the language of the two former naturalists, and translating from the French that of the two latter.

The *Clupea Harengus*, common herring, is eminently important in a commercial view, and may justly be said to form one of the wonders of the northern world. It is principally distinguished by the brilliant silvery colour of its body, the advancement of the lower jaw beyond the upper, and by the number of rays in the anal fin, which, in by far the greater number of specimens, are found to amount to seventeen.\* The back is of a dusky hue, or greenish cast; and in the recent or living fish, the gill-covers

\* Mr. Pennant says, the usual number is fourteen.



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are marked by a reddish, and sometimes by a violet-coloured spot: the eyes are large: the mouth is without visible teeth: the openings of the gill-covers are very large: the scales are rather large and easily deciduous: the lateral line is not very distinctly visible: the abdomen is pretty sharply carinated, and, in some specimens, slightly serrated: the fins are rather small than large for the size of the fish, and the tail is strongly forked. The herring is observed to vary greatly in size, and there are probably some permanent varieties of this species, which yet want their exact description. The general size is perhaps from ten to twelve or thirteen inches.

Important as this fish is to the inhabitants of modern Europe, it is doubted whether it was distinctly known to the ancient Greeks and Romans, at least we find no certain description in their writings, either of its form or uses. The herring fishery is, however, of considerable antiquity: the Dutch are said to have engaged in it so long ago as the year 1164, and were in possession of it for several centuries; and Flanders had the honour of discovering the method of preserving this fish by pickling it. One William Boukelen, of Biervliet, near Sluys, is

said to have been the inventor of this useful expedient; and from him is probably derived the word *pickle*, which we have borrowed from the Dutch and Germans. Beukelen died in the year 1397. The emperor, Charles the Fifth, is said to have held his memory in such veneration for the service he had done mankind, as to have paid a solemn visit to his tomb, in honour of so distinguished a citizen, and, sitting thereon, to have eaten a herring.\* The Dutch are most extravagantly fond of this fish when pickled: a premium was given to the first vessel that arrived in Holland, laden with this, their ambrosia. As much joy was observed among the inhabitants on its arrival, as the Egyptians shew at the first overflowing of the Nile.†

The great winter rendezvous of the herring is within the arctic circle: there they continue many months, in order to recruit themselves after the fatigue of spawning; the seas, within that space, swarming with insect food in a far greater degree than in our warmer latitudes.

They commence their voyage in the spring,

\* Shaw's Zoology, Vol. v. Ichtyologie par Bloch, Berlin, Vol. i. p. 150.

† Pennant's British Zoology.

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and a few appear off the Shetland Isles in April and May. These are only fore-runners of the grand shoal which comes in June, and their appearance is chiefly marked by the number of birds, such as gannets and gulls, which follow and prey upon them: but when the main body approaches, its breadth and depth is such as to alter the very appearance of the ocean. It is divided into distinct columns of five or six miles in length, and three or four in breadth; and they drive the water before them with a kind of rippling. Sometimes they sink for the space of ten or fifteen minutes; then rise again to the surface, and, in bright weather, reflect a variety of splendid colours, like a field of the most precious gems.

The first obstruction that they meet with in their passage southward is the Shetland Isles, which divide the shoal into two parts. One division directs its course to the eastern, the other to the western shores of Great Britain, and fill every bay and creek with their numbers. The one passes on towards Yarmouth, the great and ancient mart of herrings, proceeds through the British Channel, and afterwards nearly disappears. The other, after offering itself to the

Hebrides, where the great stationary fishery is, meets with a second interruption, and is again divided at the north of Ireland. The part which pursues the western course is soon lost in the immensity of the Atlantic ; but the other, which passes into the Irish sea, rejoices and feeds the inhabitants of the coasts that border it.

These smaller divisions are often capricious in their movements, and do not shew an invariable attachment to their haunts. \*

Such as escape the voracity of their enemies and the ravages of famine, are supposed to collect at the end of autumn in the northern sea, and, having left their spawn in a more genial climate, seek their former habitations under the ice.

The reality of the emigration of the herring, so well detailed by Mr. Pennant, begins, at present, to be greatly called in question : and it is rather supposed that this fish, like the mackerel, is, in reality, at no very great distance, during the winter months, from the shores which it most frequents at the commencement of the spawning season ; inhabiting in winter the deep recesses of

\* Pennant's British Zoology. † Bloch, Vol. i. p. 151.

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the ocean, or plunging itself beneath the soft mud at the bottom: but, at the vernal season it begins to quit the deeper parts, and approach the shallows, in order to deposit its spawn in proper situations; and this is thought a sufficient explanation of the glittering myriads which, at particular seasons, illuminate the surface of the ocean for the length and breadth of several miles at once. \*

The reasons given by Dr. Bloch, against a belief in their existence are chiefly these:

It is impossible that they should traverse a space of so many thousands of miles in so short a time. According to the observations of Giessler, the salmon, even in fresh water, swims only at the rate of one mile in twenty-four hours; and when the sun shines, not more than half as fast. †

The salmon-trout, (*lavaret*) when the wind is favorable, swims up the most rapid rivers at the rate of three miles in twenty-four hours; but up gentle streams, it makes in the same time only half the progress. ‡ Herrings, having

\* Shaw. † Giessler, p. 113. ‡ Bloch, Vol. i. p. 133.

salt-water constantly to struggle with, would proceed at a much slower rate.\*

In one or other part of Europe herrings may, all the year, be found: on the coast of Swedish Pomerania from January to March: in the Baltic Sea, and many other places, from March to November; about Gothland, and also on the coasts of France, from October to December. The fishermen of Scarborough in England scarcely ever throw a net, in any season of the year, without finding a herring among their fish.

If the herring, as some allege, fly southward to escape the eager jaws of the whale, why does it proceed so many hundred miles beyond the seas, which this, their enemy, inhabits? And why, on the approach of winter, should it return to the Arctic regions to encounter again an equal peril?

If want of provision obliges the herrings to send out colonies, why should this want occur periodically, and always at the same season?

On examining nature attentively all these difficulties vanish. Herrings, like other fish, quit the deep waters, their usual abode, in order

\* Bloch, Vol. i. p. 151.

to deposit the spawn in places more secure ; and having so done, seek again their customary haunts. Instinct or inclination, not the fear of the whale, occasions their change of residence.

They begin to multiply their species before they have arrived at one quarter, or perhaps one-eighth part, of their full growth ; and spawn at various seasons of the year, according to their respective ages. It is possible, that the herring may spawn oftener than once a year ; but this circumstance is not ascertained.\*

The prolific quality of fish is truly astonishing. An experiment was made by a discerning naturalist to ascertain the extent of this quality in carp. He put into a pond of seven acres, free from fish, three female and four male carp : he took care to supply the water with plenty of food : and these seven fish produced one hundred and ten thousand little carp.

Polyandrisms is very favourable to the population of fish ; and the number of males usually far exceeds that of females.

The roe of a herring is double. That of a

\* Buffon.

female of middling size weighs seven drachms, and is composed of white and very small eggs, varying in number from twenty thousand to seventy thousand.

It is the general law of animal and vegetable life, that the power and the propensity to increase the species should far exceed the means of living. The offspring of a single pair of animals would in a short time, if not restrained by adventitious circumstances, be sufficient to people the whole earth.

Hence it is, that in the general economy of nature, a violent as well as a natural death must be included.

The two means of regeneration and of destruction preserve nature in a perpetual youth, and limit the number of her productions. Both are the effects of general causes: every individual who is born falls of himself at the end of a certain period: should he die prematurely, it is because he was superabundant. How many flowers are gathered in the spring! how many races extinct in the moment of their birth! How many buds destroyed before they are developed!



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One species preying upon another sets bounds to the number of most animals; and want of food, to that of others.

Were not herrings destroyed by men and by fish, or by birds, they would soon cover the whole surface of the ocean. The violent death would be deferred, not prevented. They would perish by their numbers, by famine, and perhaps by contagion. With respect to other animals, the same consequences, in unequal spaces of time, would necessarily follow; and that one should live upon another seems evidently the law of nature.

The number of herrings taken annually by the Swedes alone were estimated at seven hundred and twenty millions, two thirds of which were used for producing oil. The Yarmouth fishery, in a good season, produces one hundred and forty millions. Herrings are the prey of almost every sea fish, and of almost every sea bird. The gull and the gannet indicate to fishermen where to cast their nets. When their flight is high, it is a mark that the fish is low in the water; when low, that it is near the surface. In the heat of the day the herrings are invariably

partial to the deep waters, and are lost sight of by the sea fowl.\*

The methods of catching the fish and of curing them are different in different countries. I shall confine my attention to the customs of the Isle of Man.

Between four and five hundred fishing boats, of usually about sixteen tons burden each, and not decked, compose the Manks fleet. The season commences in July, and ends with September. In the evening, the vessels leave the harbours, and return with the fruits of the voyage on the ensuing morning. The prayer, or the affectation of it, on leaving the harbour is fallen into disuse. Of many boats, which left Port Erin the evening I was there, and on one of which I was aboard going to the Calf, the practice was not observed by any. Another custom still prevails, that of not leaving shore on Saturday or Sunday evening. Many years or centuries ago, the history of which we know only by tradition; Saturday only was excepted, and the vessels used to leave the harbour, with the setting sun, on the following day. A tremendous gale, accompanied by thunder and

\* Bloch.

lightning, the signal of divine vengeance, dispersed the vessels on a Sunday night. The greater part were buried in the waves: the remainder took shelter in the recess of an impending cliff, and before morning were crushed to pieces by its fall. The dread of a similar fate is sufficiently strong among the seamen to prevent a repetition of the practice.

The nets are buoyed up by inflated bags of dogskin, and the fish are caught chiefly by the gills. To be able to bring to shore from ten to twenty thousand herrings is considered a good night's work for each boat. After a successful voyage, the fishermen get so intoxicated, that the ensuing night, however favourable, is usually lost. The produce is divided into three more shares than the number of fishermen. Every fisherman is entitled to one share: the owner of the boat to two shares, and the owner of the nets to one. Frequently the nets belong to some of the boatmen, and occasionally the boat. Two seamen and four countrymen are the number usually employed. From two to three thousand of the latter annually quit their inland habitations for the sea-ports, for the three or four summer or autumnal months. They leave

their wives to turn the soil, to reap, to thresh, and dig potatoes; and having reserved a considerable number of herrings for the year's consumption, feast and get drunk with the produce of the remainder.

Many of the Irish, when the butter does not appear in due time upon the churning of the cream, ascribe their ill success to the machinations of some evil-minded witch. The Manks fishermen, who unfortunately return with a boat unladen, ascribe their's to the same cause.

To dispel the charm, they set fire to a bundle of dry heath, or furze, in the middle of the boat. They light by the flames whisks of the same material, and apply them to every part of the interior of the vessel.

By boys and girls the herrings are conveyed in baskets from the boats.

The first operation is to make an opening with the knife, and clear away the intestine, if the fish be designed for a warm climate; if not, it is frequently dispensed with. In this country they serve only to enrich the land, or feed the gulls; but in Sweden they are boiled for oil.

Those designed for red herrings are piled up with a layer of salt between each row, and thus

left for two or three days. They are then washed, are hung by the mouth upon small rods, and placed in extensive houses built for the purpose; sometimes so large as ninety feet by sixty, and from fifteen to thirty feet high. The length is divided into several apartments, and here the rods are arranged in rows, almost close together from the roof of the house to within eight feet of the floor. Underneath are kindled many fires of dry wood and roots of trees, which, for three, four, or five weeks are kept constantly burning. When sufficiently dry and sufficiently smoked, they are, in great regularity, put up in barrels.

For white herrings the process is much more expeditious, and is usually performed on board of vessels lying in the harbour. The fish are by the women rubbed well with salt, and left in heaps till the following morning. They are then in equal regularity packed in barrels, with a layer of salt between each row.

Much of the excellence of a herring is thought to depend upon its being salted immediately after its being caught. The Dutch, and the Scotch imitating them, have adopted the practice of salting their fish on board the fishing vessels, and

of throwing overboard, at sun-rise, all that are remaining fresh.

The number of herrings annually cured in this country is subject to considerable variation. The average may, probably, be between eight and ten millions, being some years double this quantity, and some years only half. In the years 1787, 8, 9, and 90, twenty-nine millions were exported. The present price of fresh herrings varies from 12*s.* 6*d.* to 20*s.* per maze of thirty score. On the 13th July 1667, they were so abundant as to be sold at 6*d.* per maze.

Formerly præmia were given to the owners of the most successful boats ; and certain bounties upon all that were exported to foreign lands ; but both are discontinued.

The gobback, or dog-fish, preys upon herrings, and is often taken with them, rendering great damage to the nets. It abounds in oil which may be profitably extracted. Of the voracious animal itself many of the lower orders of people are extremely fond, and account it a rich delicacy.

## CHAPTER VII.

*The Arms of Man. Manks Fencibles. Religion.*

**T**HE old Arms of Man were a ship with the sails furled, and the motto, "Rex Manniæ et Insularum." At the Scottish conquest they were changed to three legs, uniting at the upper part of the thigh, and clothed and spurred, with the motto, "Stabit quocunque jeceris." They resemble the ancient arms of Sicily, except in the covering and spurs, of which those were destitute.

In former times every man capable of bearing arms was liable to be summoned by the lord, and obliged to serve in his militia. At present, the military establishment of the island consists of a regiment of fencibles, the individuals of which are enlisted voluntarily. The duty of an officer, or a soldier, is not considered incompatible with trade. The service is easy; and vacancies are readily filled up by the bounty of three guineas to a recruit. Their pay is the same as that of English regiments.

Formidable as the island used to be in its offensive operations, it does not now possess any naval establishment. A press-gang is usually stationed at Douglas to pick up seamen as they arrive.

The religion of the island is the established one of Britain. All sects are tolerated; but no marriage is legal, unless the ceremony be performed according to the custom of the Protestant Church.

The care of the church devolves upon the bishop, the arch deacon, the two vicars-general, and the episcopal registrar.

The act of revestment reserves in the Athol family all its former ecclesiastical patronage. The bishop, having been nominated by the Duke of Athol, and received his Majesty's approbation, is consecrated by the Archbishop of York. He enjoys all the pre-eminences and spiritual rights of other bishops; but, his see not being a barony, has no vote in the British house of peers. He has however, I suppose by courtesy, a seat in the house above the bar. The arms of the bishopric are, on three ascents, the Virgin Mary, her arms extended between



two pillars; on the dexter, a church; in base, the ancient arms of Man. The bishop's domain is between three and four hundred acres; and the revenue of the see is supposed to be between twelve and fifteen hundred pounds a-year.

The bishopric of Sodor was first instituted by Pope Gregory the Fourth in the ninth century \*. It was erected in Sodor; a little village in the isle of Iona, or St. Columb's Isle, corruptly called Colmkill, a small island of the Hebrides, being only two miles long and one broad. Dr. Johnson says of it, "This island, which was once the metropolis of learning and piety, has now no school for education, nor temple for worship; out of three hundred inhabitants, only two that can speak English, and not one that can read or write." The title of Sodor the bishops of the western isles possessed solely, until the year 1098, when King Magnus, of Norway, conquering these islands, and the Isle of Man, united the two bishoprics of Sodor and Man; which continued so united till the English were possessed of the Isle of Man in 1333. Though, from this time, the Bishop of Man

\* Camden.

had no claim to the bishopric of Sodor, the title is continued to the present day.

Beatson conjectures, that the word *Sodor* is a corruption of *σωτηρ* (our Saviour), to whom the cathedral of Iona was dedicated; while others imagine, that it is a corruption of *Suder* (southern); the Norwegians being accustomed to call the most northern Hebrides *Nordereys*; and the southern, of which Iona is one, *Sudereys*. All the last mentioned islands were in the diocese of the Bishop of Sodor.

The derivations, already given, relate to Iona or the southern Hebrides: but a charter is still extant, dated 1505, wherein Thomas, Earl of Derby and Lord of Man, confirms to Huam Hesketh, bishop thereof, all the lands usually pertaining to the Bishoprick: and this charter would induce us to believe that the word *Sodor* was derived from the little island contiguous to Peel, on which is placed the cathedral of Man. It runs thus: "*Ecclesiam cathedralem Sancti Germani in Holm, Sodor, vel Pele vocatam, ecclesiamque Sancti Patricii ibidem et locum præfatum in quo ecclesiæ præfatæ sitæ sunt.*"

In most of the parishes of Man, the service is read on alternate Sundays in the Manks and in

the English language. Immediately after the words in the litany, "preserve to us the kindly fruits of the earth," are very properly added these, "restore and continue to us the blessings of the sea."

The ceremony of a funeral is similar to that practised in the north of England. The bellman goes about the streets inviting all persons to attend. The solitary bell at the top of the church is rather rung than tolled. A little way from the church-yard, the attendants of the corpse, with their hats off, commence a psalm which they terminate when met by the clergyman at the gateway. The coffins of the poor people are made of stained deal, and the mourners are not clad in mourning.

Westley, with some associates, visited the island in 1777, and writes thus respecting it: "We have had no such circuit, either in England, Scotland, or Ireland: this island is shut up from the world: there are no disputers, no dissenters of any kind. The governor, bishop, clergy, oppose not. They did for a season, but they grew better acquainted with us." In the year 1797, William Savary, a Quaker of Philadelphia, with ——— Farrel, of Liverpool, and

two other companions of the same persuasion, paid a visit to the island. They travelled much about it; preached to the people as opportunity offered; and were treated with great attention and respect. The two former had made the tour of the greater part of Europe in the service of their master, Jesus Christ. They remarked, that in Man and at Berlin they had observed more than usual marks of religion among the people. Methodism is much more likely than Quakerism to attract the vulgar. Of the former sect are, at least, a tenth part of the inhabitants: of the latter, though there were a few in Bishop Wilson's time, there is not any at present.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*On the Character, Manners, and Customs of the Inhabitants. Language. Attractions of the Island.*

THE Manks are reckoned to be naturally of an indolent and credulous, often of a superstitious, and gloomy disposition. I do not know of any one that has rendered himself eminent by a great proficiency, or useful discovery in the arts or sciences; by fire of genius or profundity of learning. Characters endowed with piety, benevolence, and other virtues, in general, I trust, less remarkable, have not been rare. I would particularize several, were I not afraid of omitting others of perhaps equal merit. Some of the women of the higher classes are well informed and accomplished: most of the lower classes, civil and industrious. To these may be applied the character which one of the author's of King's Cheshire gives to the women of that country: they are usually, says he, very prolific after marriage, and sometimes before.

An honest and industrious servant girl is not *ruined* by becoming a mother, though for the sake of decency her place is lost. To this laxity of morals is attributed the absence, even in Douglas, of those women which so frequently swarm in towns. I was informed that their trade had been tried, but found not to answer. The servants of Man are more dirty and untidy than the English, but less so than the Scotch or Irish.

The people are attached to their native vales and mountains, to their ancient customs, and their laws. They considered themselves independent of the English nation, and were greatly affected by the sale of the island which they thought would blend the countries. Though few the enjoyments of the lower orders, their cares are also few. Over a jug of ale their troubles are frequently forgotten; and, when again remembered, are expected to terminate with the next fishing season. The cheapness of law encourages strife: many a quarrel, which in England, would be amicably adjusted, is here brought into court. Rancour, when long indulged, it is not easy to eradicate.

Insanity among the natives is reckoned rather common: it is usually of a melancholy, not of

a violent description. Persons, afflicted with this calamity, if not kept at home by their friends, are permitted to roam at large.

The middle and higher ranks mix too much with the English to retain any peculiar characteristic of their native country. The chief trade and much of the farming business is carried on by strangers. Civilization is little, if at all, behind the remoter parts of England. An anonymous writer of the last century says, that knives and forks were scarcely known here; that when a person gave a dinner, the appendage was a few butchers knives for carvers; that their thumbs and fingers and their teeth were the only implements allotted to the guests. He was either misinformed himself or attempted to mislead his readers.

The people are hospitably and charitably disposed. One of their proverbs is, "When one poor man relieves another God himself laughs for joy." Poor's rates and most other parochial rates are things unknown; and there is not in the whole island either hospital, workhouse, or house of correction. A collection is made after the morning service of every Sunday for the relief of such poor of the parish as are thought de-

serving of charity. The donation is optional; but it is usual for every one to give something. Beggars are little encouraged and rarely met with. The want of poor's rates and workhouses is by some thought a disadvantage; while others, judging by their effect in England, and reasoning upon general principles, imagine that, while they are a tax upon the higher and middle classes, they are rather detrimental than beneficial to the industrious poor, and consequently prejudicial to a nation.

In every parish is at least one charity school, and often a small library. These were founded by Bishops Barrow and Wilson, are supported by voluntary contributions, and many of them have funds arising from legacies and donations.

The inhabitants have nothing peculiar in their dress; sandals or kerranes being now seldom seen. Blue cloaks are more common here than red ones in London or Dublin. The market baskets and panniers are made of straw-bands, crossing each other at right angles, usually from two to four inches apart, in a manner not unlike that before described for fastening down a thatch. The common dress of strangers is a sailor's jacket and trowsers of fine blue cloth.



It is termed the Manks' livery; but when or whence this fashion arose, I have not been informed.

The language of Man is naturally Erse; and many of the country people do not understand a word of English. I subjoin as a specimen a translation of the Lord's prayer from the Manks' prayer book :

“ Ayr ain t'ayns niau, casheric dy row dt' ennym, dy jig dty reeriaght, dty aigney dy row jeant ev y thalloo myr t'yh ayns niau; cur dooin nyn arran jiu as gagh-laa, as leigh dooin nyn loghtyn, myr ta shin leigh daues yn ta jannoo loghtyn, nyn 'oi. As ny lecid shin ayns miolagh, agh livreyshin veigh olk. Son Chiat's yn reeriaght, as yn phooar, as yn ghloyr, son dy bragh as dy bragh. Amen.”

For the information or rather amusement of the reader, I shall here insert an extract of a letter written to Camden, at the time that he was composing his *Britannia*, by John Meryk, Bishop of the Isle.

“ This island not only supplies its own wants, but exports many cattle and fish, and much corn. The abundance of its produce is to be ascribed rather to the pains and industry of the

natives than to the goodness of the soil. The happy state of the country is chiefly owing to the government of the Earl of Derby, who, at his own expence, defends it with a body of regular troops, and lays out upon it the greatest part of his revenue. All causes between man and man are decided, without either expense or writing, by certain judges whom they choose among themselves, and call *deemsters*. One of these takes up a stone, and having marked it, gives it to the plaintiff as his authority for summoning the witnesses and the defendant. Should the cause be difficult or of great consequence, it is referred to the hearing of twelve men, whom they call the keys of the island. They have also coroners, whom they call *annos*, and who execute the office of sheriff. The ecclesiastical judge hears and determines causes within eight days from the citation, and the parties must abide by his sentence or go to jaol. Their language is peculiar; so likewise are their laws and money; these bearing signs of a distinct sovereignty. The ecclesiastical laws in force here, next after the canon law, come nearest to the civil. No fees are taken by the judge or the clerks of the court. The reports of the witch-

craft of the people are without foundation. The richer ranks imitate, in their manners and splendid living, the gentry of Lancashire. The women never stir abroad, except with their winding sheets about them, to keep them in mind of their mortality. A woman, having been tried, and received sentence of death, is sewed up in a sack, and thrown from a rock into the sea. Stealing and begging are practices universally detested. The people are wonderfully religious and zealously conformable to the Church of England. They abhor the civil and ecclesiastical dissensions of the neighbouring countries; and as the whole isle is divided into two parts, south and north, so the inhabitants of the one speak like Scots; and those of the other like the Irish."

It appears that the Bishop mistook for winding sheets, the blankets which the women wore as cloaks to defend themselves from the inclemencies of the weather; and that he fancied in the language of the southern and the northern part a much greater difference of dialect than actually existed. Blankets were so much in use that the women had two each, one for daily, the other for Sunday wear, as we learn by the statute

book.\* The number of the keys was never so low as twelve; but Chaloner says, that it was the custom in his time to select twelve from this house to decide appeals from inferior courts; and it probably extended to all matters not legislative.

The Isle of Man is a place of considerable resort for strangers, and is become so chiefly or altogether upon two accounts. The first is, that it is a place privileged by law from all debts not contracted here; and from debts contracted here, if not with the inhabitants as far as respects the person and money of the debtor, but not his goods. The subject will be further noticed in the Second Book. The island is so much the resort of persons of this description, that a man, on his arrival, is, *ipso facto*, immediately suspected of coming hither to avoid his creditors. A poem by a Manksman has the two following couplets:

“Let not the peaceful stranger hope to find  
An Eden here, and saints of human kind:  
No sooner is he landed on the quay,  
Than vigilant detraction grasps her prey.”

The second reason is, that a family may live,

\* See the law relative to corbs.

especially in the country, and more particularly at the northern part, at a very small expense. To elucidate this subject it may be proper to mention a few examples of expenditure. At Douglas, where the price of articles, owing to the influx of strangers, has doubled within the last ten years, veal or mutton is sold at 6*d.* or 7*d.* per pound, beef at 6*d.*, and pork, by the side, at 3½; fresh butter from 9*d.* to 1*s.*; eggs from 4*d.* to 8*d.* per dozen, being accounted dear when exceeding 6*d.*; and fowls from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per couple; port wine, very good, at 21*s.* per dozen; brandy at 11*s.* 6*d.* per gallon; hollands at 11*s.* 6*d.*; rum from 6*s.* to 8*s.* 6*d.*; tea from 4*s.* to 6*s.* per pound; refined sugar from 9*d.* upwards, and salt at 3*s.* per cwt. In the northern part of the island, and about Ramsey, meat is generally from 1*d.* to 2*d.* per pound lower; eggs are frequently sold as low as four, and till within these few years as six or eight for 1*d.*; butter at 6*d.* per pound, which, on account of the little demand for it, is usually salted, put into earthenware pans called crocks, and, at convenient times, sent to Douglas. Being one day at Ramsey, a woman, with a couple of ducks, came to the inn where I was. She asked sixteen pence for them; the

landlady bid her eight pence, saying, that four pence a duck was their full value. Whether any bargain was made I did not hear. At Castletown, the price of provisions is about midway between Douglas and Ramsey. Foreign goods in general are of course somewhat cheaper at Douglas than elsewhere. It is generally acknowledged that the price of house-rent, of land, and of provisions, has doubled within the last fourteen years. I was informed that, half a century ago, a gentleman might keep his carriage and live sumptuously for £100 per annum.

In the north of England and some parts of Ireland many provisions are cheaper than they are here; but for wines, spirits, salt, eggs, and some other articles, Man has greatly the preference. The chief advantage however, and a very great one too, which this island possesses, is, that no tax-gatherers dun the ears of the inhabitant, that no commissioners can scrutinize his books, examine into the state of his income, and finally, and without appeal, levy a contribution according to their discretion and his good behaviour.\*

\* The income tax is just in principle; but cannot be

To support life is a mere animal propensity. No cultivated mind, which has once tasted the pleasures of society, would willingly relinquish them for the conversation of the peasant and the farmer, however desirable in other respects the residence might be. Hence it happens that thinly inhabited islands slowly increase their population; and that so many Europeans have repented of their emigration to the interior settlements of America. Against a sojournment in the Isle of Man no such reasons any longer exist. If it cannot boast of the deep learning of many of its inhabitants, it justly may of the usually more desirable qualifications of sociability, politeness, easy conversation, and general knowledge.

The attractions of the island appear sufficient to occasion a continual influx of strangers. The worst characters will probably introduce the most wealth. Having no money which they can honestly call their own, they will be prodigal of that which they have iniquitously acquired.

fairly collected. It is the most arbitrary of all our taxes, approaching, in this respect, the nature of a poll-tax, and consequently is the most disliked. Its produce is so great and the expenditure of England so great, that to abolish it now would be impracticable.

They will build and plant, and endeavour to introduce into the prison scene every possible luxury and comfort. On its being the continual resort of strangers depends, and I think may safely depend, the increasing prosperity of this country.

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Having now finished the general account of the island, I beg the reader to accompany me from Douglas, on a tour to Balasalla, Castletown, the Calf of Man, Peel, Kirk Michael, Ramsey, and thence through Laxey to Douglas. I must, on setting out, request him not to expect too much. The country has many extensive and some romantic views to boast of, but is altogether without such gentlemen's seats as, in England, would claim the traveller's attention. There are few which deserve an higher epithet than that of pretty; and the owner would be greatly surprized, if asked by the stranger to shew the interior of his mansion. Plantations and shrubberies are sometimes seen to flourish with great luxuriance: but no park-scenery is yet visible. The churches have not any peculiar characteristic. The altar and the saloon are little decorated by the artist's skill.



The relics of antiquity are not numerous. They are chiefly mounds of earth and detached masses of the supposed temples or altars of the Druids, most of which would be passed almost unnoticed on Salisbury plain, or in many parts of North Wales; and stones or crosses, with Runic characters on the edge, to be read from the bottom upwards, supposed to be erected by the Danes, during their residence in the Isle of Man, and after their conversion to the Christian faith in the tenth or eleventh century. In the Calf of Man have been found, buried, ancient brass daggers, and other weapons, in a few instances partly of pure gold.

## CHAPTER IX.

*Douglas.*

**DOUGLAS** derives its name from the junction, a little above the town, of two rivers, the Duff and the Glass, the waters of which meet the sea at Douglas bay. Of the antiquity of the four towns I can say little: we have no historical account of their origin; and in the times, the transactions of which are recorded in the Chronicle of Man, all appear to have existed, though the first mentioned are those of Rushen and of Ramsey. Of their prosperity and magnitude we are nearly as ignorant, and can judge of these circumstances only by the general wealth and population of the country. Douglas contains upwards of five, some say, six thousand inhabitants, and though not the capital, is supposed to be nearly equal in size to Castletown, or Rushen, Peel, and Ramsey put together. Many of the houses are good, but none costly. The custom-house, lately the residence of the Duke, and now of the collector, is the best building.

The streets are very irregular, and in some places extremely narrow. I had the curiosity to measure the chief street opposite the projecting corner of a house, and found that it did not exceed seven feet, its average width being twenty or thirty, but without a pathway. The shape of the town is a triangle, the longest sides extending from the bridge at the upper part of the harbour, in a north-easterly direction towards the coast; and the shortest from the bridge to the pier. On the opposite side of the harbour is a red-herring house, and a row of modern houses of very good appearance. At the commencement of the pier are a court of justice and temporary prison, the latter being only used for securing prisoners till their removal to Castle-town. Very near it, to the eastward, is an ancient tower, used for a similar purpose till this was built, a wretched dungeon, and now in ruins. The walls are completely naked, and do not form a pleasing object. The pier, constructed under the direction of Mr. Stewart, architect, and finished nearly ten years ago, is the chief beauty and great attraction of Douglas. Its length is five hundred and twenty feet; its breadth forty, and it is well paved with flag-

stones. At the distance of four hundred and fifty feet, it suddenly expands fifty feet to the right. This broad part is raised three or four feet above the other, and terminates in a semi-circle. In the middle of the area is a handsome and very useful light-house. The whole of the building cost the English government upwards of 22,000*l*. The pier is the promenade of the town, and in fine weather crowded with genteel company. Immediately to the left is seen a range of hills, and beyond these the mountains of Penypont and Snawfel. Turning towards the east, we see the cliff of Clayhead, with a spacious intervening bay; and, to the right of it, a long extent of the coast of Cumberland, crowned with distant mountains, delightful objects to the eye. Still turning towards the right, nothing but the ocean is visible, till we discern, through a clear horizon, the high lands of Wales. The view is now obstructed by Douglas head. From the pier, directly across the harbour, is an elegant castellated mansion, till within these few years the residence of Mr. Whaley, usually called *Buck Whaley*. Its vicinity to the sea diminishes the verdure, and prevents the growth of trees about the grounds.

The bay is nearly two miles across; it has good anchoring, excepting on the northern side, and is sheltered from all winds but the east. Both points of the bay are rocky and dangerous; and in the middle lies a large bed of rocks, just covered at high water.

The harbour is accounted the best dry one in the Irish Channel, and admits vessels of considerable burden to come at high water close to the quay, the depth at spring tides being from fifteen to twenty feet.

Northward of the town are extensive sands much frequented by company in carriages, on horse-back, and on foot. The water of the bay is so calm and transparent, that a person, standing on the pier, may often, even at high water, distinctly see the bottom. In the most stormy weather the breakers rarely exceed the height of fifteen inches. These circumstances render the bathing particularly safe and delightful to the ladies: but only one machine is yet provided for the use of the company.

The market-place is small and destitute of shops and shambles. It is usually well supplied by the neighbouring farms; but, on a rainy day, it is sometimes impossible to purchase either a

pound of butter, a shilling's-worth of eggs, or a *kishon* of potatoes; and, unless these are by chance to be sold in the town, the inhabitants are obliged to wait for them till the expiration of another week.

Almost every article of necessity or convenience may be purchased at one or other of the shops. There is only one person here, or, I believe, in any part of the country, who sells books, and he is by trade a bookbinder; and only two who sell stationary. I tried in vain to buy a sheet of blotting paper. Wines and spirits are retailed by grocers, bakers, and linen-drappers.

Of inns in this town, the largest, and, I believe, the best, was the Globe, now divided into two. There are also the Duke's Arms, the Liverpool Hotel, the Liverpool Coffee-house, and one without a sign, kept by Clague, the oldest of all, situated between the market-place and the post-office. There are several boarding-houses, one of the best of which is kept by Mrs. Pratt, of Muckle's-gate. There is no want of public houses; their usual sign in the towns is, "Ale sold here;" and in country places an empty barrel by the door.

Some years ago a theatre was built, and plays were acted at Douglas; but even for a few weeks the proprietor did not meet with sufficient encouragement, and they are consequently discontinued. An assembly every three or four weeks is the only public amusement of the inhabitants. They are fond of visiting, and of cards, and, ill-natured people say, of scandal.

A public circulating library and reading room have been lately established, and are a great acquisition to the town. They have commenced on a moderate scale, and contain, at present, a very small, but well chosen collection of books. The number of proprietors, all of one class, does not exceed ninety. The funds are divided into guinea transferrable shares, every share-holder paying one guinea a year for contingent expenses and the improvement of the library. On the arrival of every packet, the room is crowded with subscribers, flocking thither to read the English news. On other occasions it is little frequented, and the conversation is always more political than literary. To particularize any might appear invidious to others; but every one will be pleased with the urbanity of manner and

general knowledge of the present High Bailiff, a native of the island.

All letters for the Isle of Man are brought from Whitehaven to Douglas by a packet, which ought to leave that port every Monday night; but which, owing to bad weather and the difficulty of getting out of harbour, is sometimes in the winter season for two or three weeks delayed. It remains three days at Douglas, and then returns. It contains good accommodations for passengers; but not superior to those of the Duke and of the Duchess of Athol trading to Liverpool; and perhaps not equal, in this respect, to the Chesterfield packet which sails weekly from Liverpool with passengers only. The passage from Whitehaven is nine shillings, and from Liverpool half-a-guinea. The letters are sorted from the post-office; and those for Castle-town, Peel, and Ramsey are forwarded in the order of their names. The letter-carrier stops one day at Ramsey, and then returns by the same route with the letters for England. Every body expecting letters applies for them at the post-office; and such as are not immediately sent for are stuck up in the window, ready to be



taken down and delivered to any one who claims them, and will pay the postage.

There are in the town two billiard tables for the amusement of gentlemen. Ely Shaw is, in the same house, a billiard-table keeper, a woollen draper, a publican, and he keeps a post-chaise for the use of travellers, with a steady and civil driver.

One side of the market-place is formed by a chapel, dedicated to St. Matthew, which claims no particular notice. To the west of the town, on rising ground, is St. George's chapel, for the building of which a subscription was made, and the funds were lodged in the hands of Bishop Mason. He died insolvent not long afterwards, part of the money subscribed being thereby lost, and some of the artificers remaining to this day unpaid. This is, I think, the largest place of worship upon the island: the inside is neat; and the voices of the congregation are regulated by an organ. The pews are let by auction to the highest bidder for the term of seven years. On a recent occasion the high sum of 7*l.* per annum was given for the best pews. The Dissenters exercise their devotion at a Methodist meeting-house and a Scotch kirk.

Nearly a mile and a half on the Peel road, in a very pleasant valley and surrounded by trees, is Kirk Braddon, the parish church of Douglas. Of the names of places, Chaloner's etymologies, for want of better, I shall generally follow. Braddon is supposed to be a corruption of the Manks word *bradan*, signifying *salmon*; this fish during the season being formerly very plentiful in Douglas bay; and the name of the parish, commonly called Kirk, and of the parish church being always the same. The building does not appear ancient, nor has it any thing remarkable about it, except a large church-yard literally crammed with graves. These, for the most part, have either a blank stone at the head, or one on which are engraved the initials or name of the deceased. They are little ornamented with productions of the Tragic Muse. At the upper part of the church-yard is a lofty and plain monument of Arran sand stone, erected to the memory of the late Lord Henry Murray, brother to the Duke of Athol. On the edge of a stone, forming a stile, is a Runic inscription, thus read and translated by Mr. Beauford:

"Durlifr nsaci risti crus dono Aftfiac sunsin frudur sun safrsag."

“ For Admiral Durlif this cross was erected by the son of his brother (the son of) Safrsag.”

About half a mile north of Douglas is Monacastle, a modern building of the present Duke, intended for his future residence. This is a stately edifice, and has none to vie with it upon the island. In the front is a noble ball-room equal in height to two stories of the other parts of the mansion. It is at present bare of trees; and how far the young plantations are likely to flourish seems very doubtful. His former place of abode was in the midst of some territory, which he kept in his own hands, called Port-eshee, one mile from Douglas, on the right-hand side of the Peel road, valley land, and apparently well cultivated. The building is now occupied by the tenaht, and has the appearance of a good farm-house. Hence he removed to the custom-house, a house which he had purchased, soon after the sale of the island, for 300*l*. but which is now occupied by Mr. Scott, who transacts the duties of public accountant, and of his private agent.

A few hundred yards westward, by the river, is the Nunnery, the seat of Major Taubman, taking its name from the late contiguous ruin of

a nunnery, founded, in the beginning of the sixth century, by St. Bridget, who received the veil of virginity from St. Maughold, the fourth bishop of the isle. Such is the Manks' account. Tradition commands not implicit faith. The Irish, who claim St. Bridget as their tutelar saint, give the following history of her life: She was born in the year 453, and at the age of fourteen years received the veil from the hands of St. Patrick. In 484 she founded the nunnery of Kildare: about the same time a monastery was founded under the same roof; and this illustrious and immaculate lady presided both over the nuns and the monks till the time of her death in the year 523. The prioress of Douglas nunnery was anciently a baroness of the isle; held courts in her own name; and possessed temporal authority equal to a baron. Here the trees grow with great luxuriance, particularly at the back part, where there is a very pretty bank of wood with the river at the bottom. The garden walls are well covered, and the hot-houses well stocked. Here may be found every comfort and luxury of life; and here, had I the choice of the seats of the island, would I take up my abode.

Douglas is pretty well supplied with white fish throughout the year ; with a little salmon, and of course with herrings during the summer months. A good deal of trade is carried on in the building of fishing-boats, both for home and foreign use, the workmen having acquired the character of being singularly skilful. The springs in the town not being good, water is brought from a declivity behind it, in large casks, resembling those used for a similar purpose in England, and sold at one halfpenny per pail.

A weekly newspaper is printed and published by Mr. Jefferson. The circulation of it is considerable ; and it is to be regretted that he does not amuse his readers, by a recital, as they occur, of the more interesting cases of Manks law.

The chief part of the military are stationed at Douglas ; and, by their drums and fifes, render some annoyance to the inhabitants. The band, which is good, makes however some amends. On a Sunday it plays through the town, and sometimes it enlivens the assembly.

I was struck with the sang-froid with which a market woman would, if her stocking was down, pull up her petticoats and refix it with a garter

in its proper situation: but, in many towns of Ireland, the practice is still more prevalent. It is in all cases confined to the sober and matron-like class, and never followed by the younger damsels.

The more we see of the world the less subject are we to surprize. Had I previously, as I have since, spent an autumnal month at Liverpool, these trivial things would hardly have been noticed. It is the custom of the Lancashire people to give themselves, once a year, a thorough washing. In order to effect this purpose, the inhabitants of the interior of the country, especially about Bolton, club together and contribute a weekly sum to pay the expense of an excursion to Liverpool in the course of the autumn. The scene commences a little below the Old Church, and continues till impeded by the bathing houses, a distance of two hundred yards. Within this short space I have seen, when high-water has happened in the morning, as many as two hundred people, including men, women, boys, and girls, in the water or on the beach. The men are naked, except occasionally one or two still clad in inexpressibles. Some of the women wear bathing dresses; others, their

shifts: some do no more than pull up their clothes; others retain nothing but their flannel petticoats. The girls of eight, ten, or twelve years old appear as nature made them. Though the sexes generally undress in detached parties upon the beach, they mix together in the water. In shallow places I have seen girls dancing, and in deeper water pursuing, and pursued by, the boys. To say that delicacy is determined altogether by custom might perhaps appear an unfounded and barbarous assertion: but where none is imagined little can exist. Persons engaged in this practice of annual ablution do not appear to consider it indelicate. Below the fort a similar scene is presented; and a little further on are about thirty large bathing machines, used promiscuously by ladies and gentlemen. The bather is usually desirous of getting as many as he can into one vehicle. A lady, with whom I am acquainted, went with a companion early one morning to bathe. A country-woman and her husband were about to follow them into the carriage. The woman apologized for introducing her husband, by expressing the fear she had to go into the water alone. I need hardly add, that they were obliged to seek another con-

veyance. The gentry of Liverpool resort chiefly to the corporation baths, but usually bathe in the river to which a flight of steps conducts them. The partition between the ladies and gentlemen is deal boarding, out of which a little knot or two have made their escape, and through which the hand of curiosity has bored two or three holes. Many of the stronger sex swim a quarter of a mile from shore, but beyond the boarding the more beautiful rarely venture.

With respect to cleanliness or filth the inhabitants of Man deserve not national encomium or stigma. I have never witnessed the nastiness of Scotland, but had an instance of Scotch dirt in the person of my landlady. I was waiting in the kitchen for the boiling of a can of water: she came down to warm her feet. After holding them for some time alternately to the fire, she observed, that lately she had found it very difficult to get her feet warm; that she had not washed them for some time; and she supposed the fire could not easily penetrate the dirt.



## CHAPTER X.

*From Douglas to Castletown.*

**T**O go from Douglas to Castletown we proceed over a bridge at the upper end of the harbour, beyond which a spring-tide flows two or three hundred yards. Past the nunnery mill the road becomes very pleasant, having on one side the grounds of Major Taubman, commencing with a deep bank, well covered with trees; and on the other a hedge planted upon rising ground. In ascending the hills the prospect becomes extended, and on turning about we perceive Snawfel, Penypont, and the neighbouring mountains. About half way from Douglas to Castletown we pass the seats of Mount Murray and Newtown, and see plainly the houses of the metropolis with the castle rearing its head amidst them. On the right of the road is South Barrule, vieing in majesty with the loftiest mountain of the island; and nearer to us, in the same direction, the little chapel of St. Mark, built in 1712, and situated in the parish of Malew. On the left is Santon

church; and another mile leads us to the cross road, which turns off towards it. As it is my design to make the reader acquainted with every thing in the least degree worthy of his notice, I need not apologize for making him occasionally deviate from the highway, to view a rustic village or solitary church.

Santon, or St. Anne's church, takes its name from its dedication to St. Anne, the mother of the Virgin Mary. It is situated half a mile from the sea. It is the practice of the island, whenever a person wishes to make any thing known, to affix a notice to the church-door; and here I found the following:

"Joseph Johnson respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has opened a shop adjoining Mr. Robert Cannel's, chandler, where he follows saddling, harness, and trunk-making, &c.

"An apprentice wanted.

"Highest price for horse skins, pig-skins, and slink skins."

In the church-yard is a tomb-stone to the memory of Daniel Tear, who died at the advanced age of one hundred and ten years, on

which is engraved the following epitaph, introducing a pun :

“ Here, friend, is little Daniel’s tomb,  
     To Joseph’s years he did arrive ;  
 Sloth killing thousands in their bloom,  
     While labour kept poor Dan alive.  
 How strange, yet true! full seventy years  
 Was his wife happy in her Tears.”

About a mile distant, upon a rising and heathy ground, and near the road to Douglas, are several stones, probably of Druidical antiquity, placed in a form somewhat similar to those of Laxey, hereafter to be noticed.

Having retraced our steps and turned to the left, we cross a bridge called Mulen de Cunie; and soon arrive at Balasalla, perhaps the largest village of the country, situated in the parish of Malew, two miles from Castletown. Here are the old cotton works now devoted to some other purpose; and many other mills. In the vicinity are a lime quarry and a lime-kiln: and trees scattered here and there improve the scenery.

Contiguous to the village are the ruins of Ruthen Abbey. It was founded, according to Satcheverell by one Mac Marus, or Mac

Manus, supposed to be elected to the government of the island on account of his many virtues. He laid the foundation of the abbey in the year 1098. The monks lived by their labour, with great mortification; wore neither shoes, furs, nor linen; and eat no flesh, except on journies. There were twelve of them, with an abbot. The Cistercian order had its beginning the very year of the foundation of this abbey, and was probably planted here six and thirty years afterwards by Evan, abbot of Furness in Lancashire.

In 1134 Olave, King of Man, gave to Evan the monastery of Rushen with additional lands, and a third part of the tithes of his kingdom. He either enlarged or rebuilt the abbey, dedicated it to the blessed virgin, instituted the Cistercian discipline, and made it a cell of the abbey of Furness. In 1192 the monks removed to Douglas, but in four years afterwards returned.

The religious self-denial and austerity of the monks now gave way to indolence, and the refinements of luxury. Their temporal power was increased. The abbot was made a baron of the land; held courts in his own name; could exempt any of his tenants from a trial at the

Lord's court, and have his guilt or innocence decided by a jury of his own vassals.

The abbey was plundered in the year 1316 by Richard le Mandeville, who, with his followers, having remained a month here, returned to Ireland.

In the reign of King James it belonged to the crown; but in 1611 it was granted to Lord Derby and his heirs, to hold for ever under the manor of East Greenwich, paying the accustomed rents to the King as Lord thereof. All the abbey lands were held under one grant, at the annual rent of 10*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* and of 20*l.* 17*s.* in lieu of woods, mines, and quarries. These are the sums originally fixed by Henry the Eighth, when he took possession of this property and let it to the Earl of Derby.

The site of this abbey is now in the possession of Mr. Moore, whose father, chief deemster of the island, built upon it an elegant mansion, converting into out-houses many parts of the ancient monastery. The remaining ruins are not a very pleasing object. The walls, except just at bottom, are for the most part naked, notwithstanding the gardener's care to train the ivy. The tower is not at present so high as the

contiguous house. The best view of them is from a shrubbery behind.

At a short distance is the abbey bridge, formed of two arches, over the Castletown river. The inhabitants suppose it to be of great antiquity ; but whether it belonged to the abbey or not seems uncertain. It is extremely narrow, the passage being only six feet eight inches in the clear, exclusive of the parapet-walls almost demolished. One of the arches is nearly semi-circular, and the other somewhat pointed, but both are irregular. Grose's view of the scenery is very correct, even to the number of trees.

Two miles beyond Balasalla, and nine from Douglas, is Castletown, or Rushen, the metropolis. The houses are neat and their number is estimated at five hundred. The streets are more regular than those of Douglas. The town is divided by a river, over which, and opposite the castle, is a draw-bridge for foot-passengers ; and higher up, a larger one of stone for carriages. In the middle of the town is a parade, or market-place, terminating on one side with the castle wall ; on another with a chapel ; on a third with houses, and left open on the fourth. The market is little frequented, the women being

in the practice of going about to private houses to sell their provisions. Many people in the neighbourhood send the produce of their farms to Douglas. The rocky and dangerous bay affords no encouragement to commerce, and the town would quickly dwindle were it not the seat of government. Few strangers dwell here, and I am told that the natives do not associate with them upon easy terms. There is one very good inn, the George, kept by Downea, and, I believe, two others.

The parish church, dedicated to St. Malew, is a mile and a half distant; and a chapel was founded, or rebuilt, in the town by Bishop Wilson in 1698, the year of his enthronement and his marriage. Lieutenant-governor Horn and the Bishop were equally ready to exercise or surpass their authority. The following circumstances gave rise to the imprisonment of the latter by the former. Mrs. Horn, the governor's wife, had defamed Mrs. Puller and Sir James Pool with a false charge of criminal conversation; and in consequence of her refusal to ask pardon of the parties was banished by the bishop from the holy communion. But Mr. Horrobin, his archdeacon, who officiated at

Castletown chapel, and was also chaplain to the governor, received Mrs. Horn to the communion, and was consequently suspended by the bishop, who authorised the Rev. Mr. Ross, Academical Professor, to supply his place. Horn had possession of the keys, refused to deliver them to Mr. Ross, and kept the chapel doors shut. This conduct gave occasion to the following letter from the bishop:

“ Having just now received an account from the Rev. Mr. Ross, whom I appointed to officiate in Castletown chapel during the arch-deacon's suspension, that the doors of the said chapel are shut up, and that you have refused to deliver him the keys, whereby the people are deprived of the public worship of God; and the chapel of that town, which has ever been subjected to me and my predecessors; is endeavoured to be made independent. I do therefore complain against your said act as a fresh instance of your intrenching upon the episcopal authority, and which, if not speedily remedied, may open a gap for a much greater and more pernicious innovation.”

The governor, however, conceiving that the bishop had acted illegally, fined him £50, and



his two vicars general £20 each, a most arbitrary act; and, on their refusing to pay these fines, committed them all, June 29, 1722, to Castle Rushen. Great disturbances ensued; but the people were restrained from offering violence to the governor by the bishop's exhortations from the castle walls. He told them he should "appeal unto Cæsar." After a confinement of nine weeks he was released on petitioning the King in council. The proceedings of the governor were reversed, as being illegal; and could the bishop have been persuaded to bring an action against him, it was supposed that the damages would have been extremely heavy.

The free-school of this town is formed of an old chapel, dedicated to St. Mary, and consecrated A. D. 1250. The institution was established by Dr. Barrow about the year 1670, for the purpose of supplying the church with ministers. The funds are lodged in eight trustees, and arose primarily from some tithes which were purchased of the Lord-proprietor with a sum of money, raised for that purpose by voluntary subscription. They have been since increased by a few donations and legacies. Four students are educated free of expense; and from the

time of their leaving school to their promotion they are allowed the annuity of, I believe, £25. The professor must be Master of Arts of one of the British universities, and is allowed the salary of sixty pounds.

The castle, called Castle Rushen, is worthy of inspection, and the stranger will find easy admission to the interior apartments.

It was considered the chief fortress of the island, and is now the only prison. According to the Manks' tradition, it was built about the year 960, by Guttred, grandson to a King of Denmark, and the second of a succession of twelve kings by them called Onys.

This building which is remarkably solid is said by Chalonier, Sacheverell, and other writers, to be reckoned a striking resemblance of the castle of Elsineur in Denmark. As this fortress has suffered several sieges, the repairs of the damages sustained must somewhat have altered its inferior parts.

The Manksmen, according to Waldron, had a strange tradition concerning this castle, which, as it may probably amuse the reader, is here transcribed in his own words :

“ Just at the entrance of the castle is a great

stone chair for the governor, and two lesser for the deemsters. Here they try all causes except ecclesiastical, which are entirely under the decision of the bishop. When you have passed this little court, you enter a long winding passage between two walls, not much unlike what is described of Rosamond's labyrinth at Woodstock. In case of attack, ten thousand men in attempting to enter might be destroyed by a very few. The extremity of it brings you into a room where the Keys sit. They are twenty four in number: they call them the parliament; but in my opinion they more resemble our juries in England, because the object of their meeting is to adjust differences among the common people, and they are locked in till they have given their verdict. They may be said indeed to be supreme judges, because from them there is no appeal but to the lord himself.

"A little further is an apartment which has never been opened within the memory of man. The persons belonging to the castle are very cautious in giving you any reason for it; but the natives, who are excessively superstitious, assign this, that there is something of enchantment in it. They tell you that the castle was

at first inhabited by fairies, and afterwards by giants, who continued in the possession of it till the days of Merlin, who, by the force of magic, dislodged the greatest part of them, and bound the rest in spells, indissoluble to the end of the world. In proof of this they tell you a very odd story: They say there are a great many fine apartments under ground, exceeding in magnificence any of the upper rooms; several men of more than ordinary courage have, in former times, ventured down to explore the secrets of this subterranean dwelling place, but none of them ever returned to give an account of what they saw; it was therefore judged expedient that all the passages to it should be continually shut, that no more might suffer by their temerity. But about some fifty or fifty-five years since, a person who had an uncommon boldness and resolution, never left soliciting permission of those who had power to grant it, to visit those dark abodes; in fine, he obtained his request, went down, and returned by the help of a clue of packthread which he took with him, which no man before himself had ever done, and brought this amazing discovery: "That after having passed through a great number of vaults, he came

into a long narrow place; which the farther he penetrated, he perceived that he went more and more on a descent: till having travelled, as near as he could guess, for the space of a mile, he began to see a little gleam of light, which, though it seemed to come from a vast distance, was the most delightful object he ever beheld. Having at length arrived at the end of that lane of darkness, he perceived a very large and magnificent house, illuminated with many candles, whence proceeded the light just now mentioned. Having, before he began the expedition, well fortified himself with brandy, he had courage enough to knock at the door, which a servant, at the third knock, having opened, asked him what he wanted? I would go as far as I can, replied our adventurer: be so kind therefore as to direct me how to accomplish my design, for I see no passage but that dark cavern through which I came. The servant told him he must go through that house; and accordingly led him through a long entry, and out at a back door. He then walked a considerable way, and beheld another house more magnificent than the first; and, all the windows being open, discovered innumerable lamps burning in every room. Here also he

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designed to knock, but had the curiosity to step upon a little bank which commanded a low parlour; and, looking in, he beheld a vast table in the middle of the room, and on it extended at full length a man, or rather monster, at least fourteen feet long, and ten or twelve round the body. This prodigious fabrick lay as if sleeping with his head upon a book, with a sword by him, answerable to the hand which, it is supposed, made use of it. This sight was more terrifying to our traveller than all the dark and dreary mansions he had passed through in his arrival to it. He resolved therefore not to attempt entrance into a place, inhabited by persons of that unequal stature, and made the best of his way back to the other house, where the same servant re-conducted and informed him, that if he had knocked at the second door, he would have seen company enough, but could never have returned. On which he desired to know what place it was, and by whom possessed; but the other replied that these things were not to be revealed. He then took his leave, and by the same dark passage got into the vaults, and soon afterwards once more ascended to the light of the sun."

Having thus far embarked in the fabulous history of this castle, I shall add another story of the same sort by the same author, who appears by his narration to have given credit to it.

"A mighty bustle they also make of an apparition which, they say, haunts Castle Rushen in the form of a woman, who was some years ago executed for the murder of her child. I have heard not only the debtors, but the soldiers of the garrison, affirm that they have seen it at various times; but what I took most notice of was the report of a gentleman, of whose good understanding as well as veracity I have a very high opinion. He told me, that happening to be abroad late one night, and caught in an excessive storm of wind and rain, he saw a woman stand before the castle-gate; and as the place afforded not the smallest shelter, the circumstance surprized him, and he wondered that any one, particularly a female, should not rather run to some little porch or shed, of which there are several in Castletown, than chuse to stand still, exposed and alone to such a dreadful tempest. His curiosity exciting him to draw nearer that he might discover who it was that seemed

so little to regard the fury of the elements, he perceived she retreated on his approach, and at last, he thought, went into the castle though the gates were shut. This obliging him to think that he had seen a spirit, sent him home very much terrified : but the next day relating his adventure to some people who lived in the castle, and describing, as near as he could, the garb and stature of the apparition, they told him it was that of the woman above-mentioned, who had frequently been observed by the soldiers on guard to pass in and out of the gates, as well as to walk through the rooms, though there were no visible means to enter. Though so familiar to the eye, no person has yet had the courage to speak to it ; and as they say that a spirit has no power to reveal its mind, unless conjured to do so in a proper manner, the reason of its being permitted to wander is unknown."

The castle is built close to the river, the rocky bed of which is nearly dry at low water. Its figure is irregular, and not easily conceived from any verbal description. A sort of stone glacis runs round it, said to have been built by Cardinal Wolsey. Within the walls are the Lieutenant-governor's house, barracks with rooms for the



officers, and three rooms for debtors who are separated into three classes, according to the appearance of their gentility, and who, when I was there in 1808, amounted in number to thirteen. For their use are also four forlorn detached houses of one room each, built upon the walls, which may be inhabited only by special leave of the Governor. There is one court of justice used for the various occasions of the administration of the law; but by the Keys only when sitting in their judicial capacity: in their private debates they occupy a room of their own, without the castle. The prison room for criminals is damp, dark, and wretched. Under it is a dungeon for such prisoners as were outrageous, and who, for want of any steps, were let down by ropes or descended by a ladder. No light is admitted, except what makes its way through the chinks of its trap-door or covering. The two criminals who were last here, and having been found guilty of murder, were led out to be executed, were confined in a small room, not quite so dark and miserable as the prison which had formerly been used. The stone work of the keep, built of hard limestone, similar to that found in this neighbourhood, is entire as

are many of the walls. In the roof is some very large timber, said to have been brought from the Isle of Anglesea. The interior of the castle is without flooring, and in a very ruinous condition. It was formerly the mansion of the king or lord of the island; and as the stranger rambles about the ruins, he has pointed out to him the kitchen, known by its fire-place, the banquetting-hall, and various other apartments. He may plainly see where floors have been, by timbers projecting from the walls. The stairs being of stone and not much used are still in a state of some preservation.

In this castle were deposited the archives of the island. James the Seventh, Earl of Derby, was beheaded for his attachment to his royal master, and his countess, having been taken prisoner by the republican army, was here confined. On her release she carried with her these archives, and what afterwards became of them is not known. To inquire into the motives of her conduct at this remote period is vain: we can only regret the loss of much authentic document. The statute-book of Man is preserved in Castle Rushen.

From the top of the tower is a view of the

surrounding country, interspersed with gentlemen's seats and villages; of Castletown and Pool-Vash bays, with rocks here and there projecting through the water; of the rocks of the Chickens, and also of the Eye or Borough, having a considerable aperture at the lower part, plainly discernible from the spot by its transmission of light. At the distance of two or three hundred yards is the gallows. It has not been used since the year 1745.

A mile and a half off, across the sands and the isthmus which joins the peninsula of Langness to the land is Derby haven, formerly called Rannesway or Rainsway, having on its southern termination St. Michael's Island, joined to the main land by a wall, twelve feet thick, and about one hundred yards long, and at low water by the sandy beach. It contains a round tower, the outer wall of which is still entire. On a square stone, over the entrance, are the ducal coronet and the figures 16). The third figure appears to have been 6; but as Chaloner, who wrote in 1653, informs us, that the 'late Earl of Derby' built a fort here, we must give it the interpretation of 0 or 3. The fourth figure is obliterated. In the area are four iron cannons

without carriages, one about eleven feet long, the others eight. The tower may be about eighteen feet high, and as many yards in diameter : its walls are eight feet thick.

Not far off are a few ruinous walls of a church, apparently not very old, but supposed by some to be the cathedral in which the bishops were formerly consecrated or enthroned. If such was ever its use, it must have been before the building of St. Germain's in Peel Isle in 1245. The authority of Camden does not, in this instance, seem sufficient to confirm the supposition : his relation of the circumstance is very far from clear : and I cannot learn, that this small territory was ever called Sodor or Sodor-ensis. He says, " By Castletown, in the Isle of Man, there is a little island, wherein Pope Gregory the Fourth instituted a see, the bishop whereof was named Sodorenensis, and had, in times past, jurisdiction over all the western islands ; but exerciseth it now only upon that island.\* Near the eastern wall is a solitary tombstone erected to the memory of a mariner who died in 1782.

\* Gibson's Camden's Britannia.

In a retired spot near the Peel road is Kirk Malew. Upon the tombstones are several attempts at poetry, but none worthy of insertion. It is remarkable, that the parish of Malew, which includes the metropolis, and the largest village, should afford no parsonage-house for its minister.

## CHAPTER XI.

*From Castletown to the Calf of Man and to Peel.*

**PORT-LE-MARY** is a mile and a half from Castletown; and Port-Erin two miles further, along a circuitous road. Of these small villages the last mentioned is the most considerable, on account of its good harbour and the herring fishery. Between them, on the right-hand side of the road, are the "Giant's Quoiting Stones," two pieces of unhewn clay-slate standing on end, about ten feet high, between four and five feet wide, and nearly two feet thick. Half a mile further is Fairy-hill, a large mound, said by some to be erected and inhabited by fairies; by others, to be a barrow, raised by the Danes in commemoration of Ivar, who was killed on this spot, fighting in single combat with Reginald.

While waiting at Port-Erin for the departure of a herring-boat, which was to convey me to the Calf, a fisherman introduced himself by

warning me to take care of the fairies which I should meet with there, telling me that he had charms against their power. Another fisherman who that morning had very civilly walked near two miles out of his way to shew me a road, pretended to laugh at his companion's tales; but, upon being questioned seriously upon the subject, he confessed his firm belief in the existence of these aerial beings. He said that his father once met with a flock of them, and he was not a man to tell a lie. They were invisible, but cackled like geese close to him, when there were no geese within sight.

Port Erin is the usual place for hiring boats for the Calf of Man. A small sailing vessel, or one manned with four rowers is most convenient, and, if the sea is calm, safe enough: if not, I recommend the traveller to stay on shore. The tide runs strong, and there are many rocks about this little island. The distance is three miles, and the demand for the boat is from seven shillings to half a guinea, according to the number of company, and the length of the intended visit. In the narrow channel which parts the island from the main land, are several little rocks, and one large one called Kitterland Isle, with herbage

and sheep upon it in summer. The cliffs of Spanish-head, though not very high, are bold, with the sea dashing against them.

When the tide is not too low the landing is easy,<sup>1</sup> and is usually effected in a small creek on the northern side.

On the shore I met Mr. Gourlay, the farmer and tenant of the island, who received me very civilly, but was fearful that the accommodation which he could afford me for the night would not be very great, as the house in which he then resided was not yet finished. He and his wife had just been fishing, and, in the course of two hours, had caught one hundred fish, killack and coal-fish, the former weighing, upon an average, one pound each; and the latter, four ounces. The bait which they use is composed of the ends, one inch and a half long, of two or three white feathers from the wing of a goose or gull. These being placed in one direction are tied to a hook. While fishing, Mr. Gourlay is constantly rowed about, and the bait is taken at the surface of the water, often as quickly as he can throw in his line. His rod is rather long, but not very pliable. The bait he calls a fly, but believes the



fish take it for the under part of a small herring.

The circumference of the island, on the accessible parts, is computed to be five miles, and the included area, six hundred acres. It is the property of the Duke of Athol; is tithe free; and one tenant rents the whole upon lease. The house in which he lives will be very commodious when finished. His late dwelling, a few hundred yards off, is now occupied by a labourer. These are the only inhabitants.

In this island are two fields of oats, one in very good condition, one field of grass, and a plot of potatoes. The remainder of the land consists of sheep walks, some very fine, and of heath. Thrift grows plentifully about the rocks, and frequently usurps the place of the grass. Except in the farmer's garden there is not a tree or shrub three feet high upon the island; even here not more than four exceeding six feet, and these few not ten. I observed, in the course of my walk, eight or ten head of cattle, as many horses, and a few score of sheep.

Rabbits every where abound, and are the farmer's chief source of profit. He takes about

two thousand annually, between the months of October and April. The common toothed rat-trap, placed close to the boroughs, and catching them by the legs, is the most successful. Of this sort not less than one hundred are nightly set. He makes use also of a net with large meshes, two hundred yards or more in length, which, in the night time, he cautiously places in a perpendicular direction, supported by poles, and having three or four feet trailing upon the ground, between the boroughs and the place of pasture. Men are then sent round to frighten the rabbits. They immediately flee towards their homes, not seeing the net run against it, and are irrecoverably entangled by their legs. It is essential to the success of this stratagem, that the wind should not blow from the men who place the net towards the rabbits.

In the spring of the year this place is a great resort for sea-fowl, who come hither to lay their eggs and rear their young. They do not confine themselves to the inaccessible parts; and so numerous are they, that my conductor assured me that, in the course of an hour, he had been able to collect three hundred eggs. Woodcocks are the only usual game. The farmer once

brought over a few hares, male and female, but having turned them loose never saw one of them again.

This island is said to have been the retreat of two hermits; one of whom in the reign of Elizabeth murdered a beautiful woman in a sudden fit of jealousy, and spent the remainder of his life in solitude, penance, and the severest mortifications; the other, Thomas Bushell, in the reign of James, made it his abode for only a few years. A supposed letter of his, still extant, is to this effect:

“The embrions of my mines\* proving abortive by the fall and death of Lord Chancellor Bacon, were the motives which persuaded my pensive retirement to a three years solitude in the desolate isle, called the Calf of Man, where, in obedience to my dead Lord's philosophical advice, I resolved to make a perfect experiment upon myself, for the obtaining of a long and healthy life, most necessary for such a repentance as my former debauchedness required, by a parsimonious diet of herbs, oil, mustard, and honey, with water sufficient, most like to that of our long-lived fathers before the flood, as was conceived

\* The writer was a mineralogical projector.

by that Lord ; which I most strictly observed, as if obliged by a religious vow, till Divine Providence called me to a more active life."

What is called Bushell's House, now ruinous, consists only of one narrow entrance, and an adjoining room, probably a bed-chamber, with a recess about three feet wide and six deep, wherein it is supposed his bed was placed. This building is situated upon the highest ground in the island, and within a few yards of a rugged cliff nearly perpendicular.

The two rocks of the Stack are of a triangular shape, of the computed height of one hundred feet, and base of sixty feet. They are ten or fifteen yards from the bottom of the cliff, with deep water intervening. Off the south-east shore is the Eye or Borough, a large mass of rock, half as high again as the Stack, with steep rugged sides, accessible only at one part, and there with difficulty, and the only place where rabbits are not visible. On the top is a place called Bushell's Grave ; but thought by some to have been intended for a hiding place. It is an excavation of the rock, in the form of a cross, each of the two longitudinal cavities being about six feet long, three wide, and two deep. Im-

mediately at the edge of the cavities is a wall of stone and mortar, two feet high, except at the southern, western, and eastern ends, which were left open perhaps for ingress, egress, observation, and the admission of light. The whole is covered with slate and mortar. Salt water is often to be found at the bottom, the consequence of the sea's breaking over the rock in stormy weather; and of the stone being too solid to admit its passage. The borough is joined to the Calf at low water; but at high water there are forty feet of intermediate sea.

The day which I spent on this retired but hospitable island, was the harvest-home, the *meller* of the Manks, a time of jubilee. The labourers had plenty of ale, and the master dealt out his excellent rum with a cautious, not sparing hand. Though of ten or twelve people all were merry, none was absolutely intoxicated. A dance in the barn concluded the festivity of the day: and Mr. Gourlay conducted me to the opposite shore in his own boat.

Very near Port-Erin is Kirk Christ Rushen, so called, according to Chaloner, from being built on the side of a "rushy bog." Of the church I know nothing worthy of remark. On

a sun-dial, by the steps at the eastern entrance of the church-yard, is this motto :

“ Horula dum quota sit

“ Quæritur hora fugit.”

Proceeding towards Balasalla, we enter the parish of Arbory, and immediately perceive the church on our left. The name is said by Chaloner to be derived from the number of trees, “ arbour-like,” which formerly surrounded the church-yard. None of them remain. Here is a vertical monument of Poolvash limestone, a frequent material for this purpose, thus commemorating Mr. Stevenson :

*Coat of Arms.*

This monument was erected by Mrs. Alice Stevenson to the memory of her son.

Here lie the remains of Richard  
Ambrose Stevenson, Esq. who departed  
this life, February 27, 1778, aged 30 years.

“ Adieu blest shade ; oh ! cease to mourn ;  
Nor strive to wake the silent urn.  
Rather each care, each thought employ  
To meet thee in the realms of joy.”

Surrounding iron rails keep the people at a respectable distance.

Westward of the church is the little village of Colby.

Continuing our journey, the next object of attention is South Barrule. The direct way to it from Castletown or Peel is along the mountain road between the towns, and the ascent may be made on horse-back or on foot. The view from its summit is nearly equal to that from Snawfel. Of Ireland, may be discerned the Arklow mountains, the high point of land on this side the bay of Carlingford, and the hills behind Strangford; of Wales, the towering Snowdon, Great Orm's Head, and other mountains: of England, part of the coast of Cumberland: and of Scotland, all the high land between Dumfries and Port Patrick. Of nearer scenery is the Calf, the mountains to the north-east obscuring part of the English coast, and a concentrated view of the chief part of the Isle of Man.

On the side of the road, opposite this mountain, are the abandoned lead mines of Foxdale. Further, on the left, is a mountain torrent tumbling down a rock of the height of about forty feet, nearly perpendicular, and of twenty or thirty oblique. A few ash trees, chiefly at the bottom, improve the scenery.

Having crossed a bridge we take the first cross road on our left, leaving St. John's and the Tynwald mount for a future visit. At the end of three miles and a half we arrive at Kirk Patrick, erected in the year 1710. This building, with many others, is owing to the religious zeal and exertions of Bishop Wilson. Besides a hundred pounds towards bettering the endowment, he gave a pulpit, reading-desk, clerk's seat, communion-table, carpet and rails.

Not far off is the valley of Clanmy, now called Glenmay. This is the prettiest spot upon the island, and a most delightful one. It is, as its name imports, a glen, with deep, rocky, woody banks; in some places nearly perpendicular, terminated by a rivulet murmuring over the rocks, and, in one place, forming a cascade. The scenery here is highly romantic. The ground is well covered with the chesnut, the hazel, and the ash, apparently all planted. The northern bank is a perpendicular rock, of the height of sixty feet, here and there making its appearance through a covering of luxuriant ivy: at the top and bottom the holly flourishes. The southern bank, though not perpendicular, is very steep and well wooded. The valley winds



considerably, and by excluding foreign objects renders the scenery more romantic. The spectator descends by a circuitous path. Towards the sea the glen continues pretty, but the wood of the southern side soon disappears. The bottom was too rugged, and the sides were too steep to permit my intended ramble through it. Being obliged to leave it, I walked on the top of the bank, and when, on the first opportunity, I again descended, found its beauty much diminished. Above the fall is a mill, and above this, where the vale opens, are a few cottages, prettily situated, with trees about them.

## CHAPTER XII.

*From Peel to Kirk Michael.*

**PEEL** is ten or twelve miles distant from Douglas. This town is chiefly remarkable for the ruins of its castle and cathedral. It is supposed to contain twelve hundred people. Since the loss of the smuggling trade it has been a place of little commerce. Provisions are cheap, and fish plentiful. The church in the town is dedicated to St. Peter.

Peel castle stands on a small rocky island, about a hundred yards west of the town ; being separated from it by a channel, scarcely a foot deep at low water. The island is sometimes called Holme Peel. It is joined to the main land, southward of Peel river, by a strong stone wall, shelving to the top, built many years ago to secure the harbour. The entrance to this island is on the eastern side. There was formerly a flight of stone steps to the water's edge ; but these are too nearly demolished to be of any use to the traveller, who is now obliged to clamber

over the rocks. Turning to the left, he ascends several steps to the gateway in the side of a square tower of the castle, through which he enters. Immediately to the right is a vaulted guard-room.

The walls are flanked with towers, and enclose an irregular polygon whose area contains about two acres. The average thickness of them does not exceed three or four feet. They are built of clay-slate little hewn, and are coigned and faced in many parts with red sand-stone. The time of their erection is unknown. Here are the ruins of two churches; one dedicated to St. Patrick, supposed to be of great antiquity; the other to St. Germain, being the cathedral of the island, and built about the year 1245. The whole area is full of ruins of various buildings, walls, and dwelling houses. About the middle of it is a square pyramidal mound of earth, terminating obtusely. Each of its sides faces one of the cardinal points of the compass, and measures about seventeen yards. It is surrounded by a ditch, five feet and a half broad. Time and weather have rounded off its angles. It is supposed to have been an eminence whence an officer might harangue his troops, or the burial

place of some great personage; and the natives imagine that much treasure lies hidden under it.

Before the British government purchased the royalty of the island, this fortress was garrisoned by troops kept in pay by the Lord of Man. At the time of the sale, were removed from the remains of the armoury many matchlock muskets and other ancient arms.

St. Germain's is described by Waldron as being richly ornamented, and abounding in monumental inscriptions. At present, however, there is not in it a single piece of carved stone, and scarcely a vestige of any ancient funeral memorandum. The whole building is extremely ruinous, and has not for many years been used for any other purpose than a burying-place. Its dimensions are seventy six feet by twenty. Beneath the eastern part of it is the ecclesiastical prison, or dungeon, for those persons who were so miserable as to incur the spiritual censure. The descent is by eighteen steps of about ten inches each, a good deal broken, winding through a dark passage. The dimensions of the vault are thirty four feet by sixteen. The bottom is of earth; and at one corner are the remains of

a well, uncovered, which must have added greatly to the dampness of the place. The only light or air is admitted through a small hole in the wall.

St. Patrick's church stands a little to the westward of St. Germain's; all the buildings here being of the same material. Its windows have been circular. Nothing but the walls remain. Waldron mentions subterranean cells under the churches, respecting which I could not obtain any information from an old woman, my guide, except the report that there were such. He describes them thus : " Some of them have nothing in them to sit or lie down upon ; others, a small piece of brick-work ; some of them are lower and more dark than others, but all of them, in my opinion, dreadful enough for any crime humanity can be guilty of ; though it is supposed they were built with different degrees of horror, that the punishments might be proportionate to the faults of the wretched prisoners. They have not been made use of since the times of popery."

The castle is said to be haunted by several apparitions, among which is that of Eleanor, wife to Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, uncle

to Henry the Sixth. She was confined and died here, and her ghost has ever since been nightly heard to ascend a stone staircase, leading to a little house upon the wall.

Waldron tells the following curious story of an apparition in the shape of a dog. "They say that an apparition, called in their language the *maïthe doog*, in the shape of a large black spaniel, with curled shaggy hair, was used to haunt Peel Castle; and has been frequently seen in every room, but particularly in the guard chamber, where, as soon as the candles were lighted, it came and lay down before the fire, in presence of all the soldiers, who at length, by being so much accustomed to the sight of it, lost great part of the terror they were seized with at its first appearance. They still however retained a certain awe, believing it to be an evil spirit which waited to do them hurt; and for that reason forbore swearing and all profane discourse while in its company. But though they endured the shock of such a guest when altogether, none cared to be left alone with it. It being the custom therefore for one of the soldiers to lock the gates of the castle at a certain hour and carry the keys to the Captain, to whose

apartment the way led through a church, they agreed among themselves that whoever was to succeed, the ensuing night, his fellow on this errand, should accompany him that went first, and by this means no man would be exposed singly to the danger ; for the maüthe doog was always seen to come out from that passage at the close of day, and return to it as soon as the morning dawned, which made them look upon this place as its peculiar residence.

“One night a fellow being drunk, and, by the strength of his liquor, rendered more daring than ordinary, laughed at the simplicity of his companions ; and, though it was not his turn to go with the keys, would needs take that office to testify his courage. All the soldiers endeavoured to dissuade him ; but the more they said the more resolute he seemed, and swore that he desired nothing more than that the maüthe doog would follow him as it had done the others ; for he would try whether it was dog or devil. After having talked in a very reprobate manner for some time, he snatched up the keys and went out of the guard-room. In some time after his departure a noise was heard ; but nobody had the boldness to see what occasioned it, till, the ad-

venturer returning, they demanded the knowledge of him; but, loud and noisy as he had been at leaving them, he was now become sober and silent enough; for he was never heard to speak more: and though all the time he lived, which was three days, he was entreated by all who came near him either to speak, or, if he could not do that, to make some signs by which they might understand what had happened to him; yet nothing intelligible could be got from him, only that by the distortion of his limbs and features, it might be guessed that he died in agonies, greater than is common in a natural death. 'The maüthe doog was however never seen afterwards, nor would any one attempt to go through that passage; for which reason it was closed up and another way made. This accident I heard attested by several, but especially by an old soldier who assured me that he had seen the maüthe doog oftener than he had hairs on his head."

Walter Scott alludes to this tale in the following lines of his *Lay of the Last Minstrel*:

"But none of all the astonish'd train  
Were so dismay'd as Doloraine:



His blood did freeze, his brain did burn,  
 'Twas fear'd his mind would ne'er return ;  
 For he was speechless, ghastly, wan,  
 Like him of whom the story ran,  
 That spoke the spectre-hound in Man."

Peel castle is overlooked by a contiguous hill, called Horse-hill, rising almost immediately from the base of the rock. Were the walls thick, it could never have sustained a long siege with the enemy in possession of this commanding eminence.\*

From the ruins of the cathedral was stolen, many years ago, a brass plate which had been placed over the tombstone of Bishop Samuel Rutter, with the following epitaph, supposed to have been written by himself :

" In hac domo, quam a verniculis  
 Mutuo accepi confratribus meis ;  
 Sub spe resurrectionis ad vitam,  
 Jaceo Samuel permissione divinâ  
 Episcopus hujus insulæ : siste, lector,  
 Vide ac ride palatium Episcopi.  
 Ob. 30mo die mensis Maii, 1663."

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\* Having now finished the account of Castle Rushen, Rushen Abbey, and Peel Castle, I here acknowledge my obligations to Mr. Grose from whose accurate descriptions I have little deviated, unless obliged so to do by the devastations of time. For several parish memorandums I am indebted to Mr. Feltham.

In the town of Peel is an excellent but very small inn, kept by Mr. Long from Cumberland.

The Peel river accompanies, on the right hand side, the road to St. John's. About two miles from Peel, on the further side of the river is an uncultivated hill; still haunted by the spirit of a murdered witch. She does not appear to mortal eyes, but every night joins her lamentations to the howling of the wind. The truth of Mank's stories depends upon the faithfulness of tradition. The island was much celebrated for its fairies and its witches. The poet Collins calls it the Elfin land; and Dr. Langhorne says it is the only place in the world where one should have the least chance of meeting with a fairy. The women were so much given to witchcraft that they would often sell wind to the mariners, inclosed in knots of thread. If only a little was wanted a few were to be undone, if much, many.\*

I may remark, what I dare say has been remarked before, that a wonder often gains credit in proportion to the lapse of years. Even the

\* Hollinshed's Chronicles.

cotemporaries whom history or poetry record to have believed in or actually witnessed miracles were sometimes seized with an incomprehensible indifference or coldness, and attached little importance to their author. Gibbon says that, considering the number of miracles wrought in favour of Æneas, he sometimes doubts whether that celebrated hero should rather have been called impious than pious. A portion of the same spirit which formerly induced nations to kill their prophets was perhaps exerted in the punishment of witches.

Wherein this witch offended the people I could not learn. She shared the fate of Regulus, was put into a barrel with spikes inserted round the interior, and thus by the weight of herself and the apparatus rolled from the top of the hill to the bottom. The Manksman who related the story to me appeared to credit it himself.

Three miles from Peel is the Tinwald Mount, of singular appearance and unknown antiquity. Its name is usually derived from the word *tin* or *ting*, signifying in the Danish language an assembly of the people, or court of justice; and *wald*, a field or place, or possibly fenced. A modern author derives it from the British words

*tyng* and *val*, signifying "the juridical hill." The way up the mount is by a flight of steps of turf on the eastern side. The diameter of the summit does not exceed seven feet. Round this, and three feet below it, is an annular plot about four feet wide; and below this, another six feet wide; and below this another still wider. The circumference of the outer circle is nearly eighty yards; all the angles are rounded, and almost the whole surface is of turf. The mount is kept clear of weeds, and is pervaded by an air of neatness.

At a little distance is St. John's chapel, rebuilt about twelve years since, destitute of pews, and used, I believe, only on the day of the promulgation of the laws. The old chapel was for many years in so ruinous a condition that it served no other purpose than a sheltering place for the neighbouring sheep, driven from the open plains by storms or noon day heats. Whether the annual prayers were, during this period, dispensed with or read elsewhere, I omitted to inquire.

Grose's view of the Tinwald is very correct. The church has been rebuilt as it was before, except that a turret and a bell have been added.

Not any stone by way of fence or gate post is now visible.

Leaving on our right the Douglas road, we enter a solitary dell, two miles long. The sides are lofty, steep, rocky, and barren. From ten to twenty yards below the carriage way is a shallow river, murmuring over the pebbles; and the noise is occasionally increased by the tributary waters of a mountain torrent. In this glen is one cottage with a little garden; and nature has produced one tree, a stunted oak.

The first village that we come to is the pleasantly situated one of Kirk Michael, in a parish of its own name; and almost contiguous to it upon the shore is the village of Glenwillian.

The church, dedicated to the Arch-angel, is within an hundred yards of the inn. Opposite the entrance of the church yard stands upright, forming the center of a horse-block, a piece of clay-slate, seven feet high, eighteen inches wide, and between four and five inches thick. On the side furthest from the church is engraved a cross, its length being nearly equal to that of the stone. On each side of it are various devices of horses and riders, and of stags being seized by dogs. The other side, more defaced, is

somewhat different, but partakes of the same character. On the upper part of one edge of the stone, and on the right hand, is the figure of a warrior with his spear and shield, and between his legs a cross. On the same edge are Runic characters. To shew the reader how little certain knowledge he can obtain on such subjects, I shall insert the translation of them by two antiquarians:

“Watter, son of Thurulf, a knight right valiant, Lord of Frithu, the Father, Jesus Christ.”

John Prestwich, Bart.

“For the sins of Ivalsir, the son of Dural, this cross was erected by his mother Afride.”

Mr. Beauford.

On the edge of a stone in the church-yard is a Runic inscription, thus read and explained by Mr. Beauford:

“Uleifan funtree Gudean nom illean Reinti crund: son sfstr mel muru funtree niis tolirluf cetlan cone, in e.”

“We hope to live through the holy name of God; and by means of the mysterious tree on

which his Son suffered an evil death our sorrows shall be washed away."

Colonel Townley says in his journal that he found on the outside of this-church-yard a venerable stone, displaying in the rude chissel-work the figure of some mighty Danish chief in complete steel: that he "rescued the warrior from his ignominious concealment, took him into his carriage, and conveyed him to more respectable quarters."

Near the eastern end of the church is the tomb-stone of Bishop Wilson, with this inscription:

"Sleeping in Jesus,  
Here lieth the body of Thomas Wilson, D. D.  
Lord Bishop of this Isle;  
Who died March 7th, 1755, aged 93,  
And in the 58th year of his consecration."

In the lower part of the stone his son, Dr. Wilson, informs the reader that he is restrained by the express commands of his father from mentioning his character or bestowing praise, and therefore adds no more than one expressive line:

"Let this Island speak the rest."

In this parish is the pile of stones called *Cairn*

*Viael*, probably raised in commemoration of some ancient chief.

A mile from Kirk Michael is the Bishop's palace, a modern building without state. His Lordship's domain contains between three and four hundred acres. The grounds are well wooded, and, besides a sea view, command the luxuriant land of the northern district.

One of the barrows in this neighbourhood Chaloner caused to be opened, and found in it fourteen rotten urns or earthen pots, placed with their mouths downwards. One of them, neater than the rest, was imbedded in fine white sand, but contained nothing more than a few brittle bones having apparently passed the fire: no ashes were discernible.



## CHAPTER XIII.

*From Kirk Michael to Ramsey, Laxey, Douglas:  
thence to Kirk Marown.*

**T**WO miles to the north-east of Kirk Michael is the village of Ballaugh, and full a mile further its parish church, one of the three rectories. The name in Manks signifies *mirc town*, and was, according to Chaloner, given to this village or church, from its being situated in a place that was formerly a bog.

Ballaugh is about as populous as Balasalla. It has manufactories for coarse hats, and appears in a flourishing condition. At a newly established public-house, I found tolerable accommodation for the night. It is without sign or any notice of what may be found within, except "Ropes sold here," written in large characters. The innkeepers' charges are generally quite as high as might be expected from the price of provisions: but here the bill for a supper of cold mutton, a pint of ale, a glass of brandy and water, bed, and breakfast, amounted to no more than one shilling and sixpence.

The vane upon the top of Ballaugh church has the date of 1717 : the building itself is rather older.

A good deal of bog land and some rabbit warrens are in this parish.

Two miles further and nearly half a mile from the point of land, which bears its name, is Kirk Jurly.

Few monumental inscriptions of this island are in any other language than Latin or English. In this church-yard is the following epitaph :

“ Exu. dom. Gul. Tear Ludimagist. de Peel. Sepul. Jul. 5, 1756, an. æt. 74. Epit. loco Gul. Tear, author. scripto.

Mors heu! pœna quidem tamen est certissima vitæ,  
Janua felicitis denique læta piis.

Me licet hic retinent pro tempore vincula mortis,  
Spes tamen in Christo non moritura manet.

In Christi meritis patrisque clementis amore  
Est humilis mea spes, hæc moriorque fide.

Tu Deus ipse meum cor scis secretaque cordis,  
Obscurè cui non abdita quaque patent.

Hic nihil optari dignum est, heu! omnia vana:

Ergo beata veni, vanaque vita vale.”

The church-yard is on high ground and affords a good view of England, Scotland, and Ireland. It includes a barrow, devoted once more to its former use. This parish contains several other

barrows, and much bog-land intersected by the Curragh drain.

A cross road leads to Kirk Bride, situated five miles from Ramsey, and rather more than two from the point of Ayre. The church is dedicated to St. Bridget : it is the second rectory we have come to, but has no parsonage-house. In the church-yard are some Runic characters upon a stone cross, thus translated by Mr. Beauclerk :

“ The son of Ulf, of the Swedes, erected this cross to the warrior Afterarin, the son of Cunnu.”

At the point the land lies very low ; and the shallowness of the water for a long way out at sea has been the cause of many a shipwreck.

Kirk Andreas lies between Bride and Ramsey. It is a rectory and archdeaconry. The old church, the oldest parish church upon the island, being in a very ruinous condition, was pulled down about eight years ago ; and the present building erected on its site.

Near a seat called Balahurry is an old encampment, formed, as Colonel Townley conjectures, in the civil wars by the troops of Oliver Cromwell. It is reckoned the most complete of any of that era, and to be in a well chosen situa-

tion. It is surrounded by a wide fosse, and has a bastion at each of the four corners. The internal square is sufficiently sunk to secure the troops from the enemy's fire. There is no breach in the works.

The churches of Ballaugh, Jurly, and Andreas, being situated on elevated ground, are all of them discernible from the high road between Bishop's-court and Ramsey. The intermediate land being flat is marshy in winter time.

On our approach to Ramsey we cross the Selly river by a stone bridge of three arches, one hundred and eighty feet long, including the abutments, and twelve feet wide.

Ramsey is a straggling town, about as large as Peel. It acquires some importance from being the seat of the administration of justice for the northern district. A new court of law was built here six or eight years ago, but is not kept in good repair. It abounds with broken panes of glass, stopped up with pieces of old tea-chests. The bay is spacious, and secure from any wind not blowing directly on shore. The harbour is bad and much choked up by sand. A pier runs

a few hundred feet out to sea, and is terminated by a light-house. Several cannons lie scattered about ; but here, as in other places, they are, for the most part, without carriages, and in their present state altogether unfit for use.

Near the town is a protestant chapel, built upon the foundation of an old Romish one.

There is only one inn here. It is kept by a Mr. Smith, a very civil man, who is usually drunk every day, and in this state utters loudly, with little intermission, the most horrible oaths. The evening on which I was there, his wife found great difficulty to get him to bed ; and, in order to gain her end, promised to bring him another glass of brandy when he should be fairly in. Whether she cajoled him or not I cannot tell ; but after he was in his room I heard him rave desperately, and talk of murdering every body in the house. I ought to add, that he is not, in his mad fits, considered dangerous, being charged with powder, but not shot. Even the report of a gun is unpleasant to weak nerves.

Two miles from Ramsey on the Kirk Michael road is Kirk Christ Lezayre, a church on a declivity, with trees about it ; a rural spot. Cha-

loner can find no better derivation of its name, than its situation in a sharp air, the word in Manks having this signification.

On a stone in the church-yard is this parody of two lines of Virgil :

“ *Quam veniente die, quam discedente requiro,  
Et meam moriens reminiscer uxorem.*”

In an old register of this parish is the following curious memorandum without date.

“ One Robert Cottier’s wife was delivered of a child, which was baptized upon the Monday; and she came to be churched upon the Wednesday next after: and after returning home she fell in labour, and was delivered of another child, and came to be churched upon the Saturday next after, in the same week: churched twice in the same week. This I testify to be truth.

ED<sup>d</sup> CROW, Minister.”

I find by Chaloner that, in the year 1653, there was an Edmond Crow, minister of this parish.

Not far from the church the remains of a copse of hazel trees are still visible. Several gentlemen’s seats with trees about them are in the

neighbourhood: the vegetation is luxuriant: many apple orchards skirt the road: and the stone or mud fences frequently give way to the more useful and ornamental quickset. Lezayre parish being very extensive, is embraced by Michael, Ballaugh, Jurly, Andreas, Bride, Maughold, Lonan, Oncan, and Braddon.

In going from Ramsey to Maughold we leave North Barrule on the right. By the road-side near Port-le-voillen is a stone of considerable antiquity, with five raised balls upon it, and other devices, being about six feet long and three wide.

Maughold head is an abrupt promontory terminated by a bold cliff. Underneath some moss-covered rocks was a spring called St. Maughold's Well, much resorted to for the supposed medicinal virtues of its waters; and for the fecundity which they imparted to women, when sitting in the saint's chair to drink them. The name of this village is derived from one of the early bishops of the island.

The church, in dimension seventy-two feet by seventeen, extravagant proportions even for Man, stands in the center of five acres of grass, interspersed with grave-stones. The Manks

church-yards have not the neatness of those of Wales; and the mournful yew is rarely, if ever, to be seen. Near the entrance to this is a pillar of unhewn clay-slate, about seven feet high, the center of a horse-block. Three of its sides represent our Saviour in three states—of birth, passion, and crucifixion. The fourth side is simply ornamented with a sprig of oak. That it refers, as Robertson conjectures, to St. Maughold and St. Bridget is highly improbable.

Nearly two miles on this side of Laxey is a turning towards Snawfel. The prospect from its summit combines the advantages of the two Berrales; and from its central situation includes a larger portion of Manks territory. The situation of it is said indeed to be the center of the British dominions, whence all of them may be plainly discerned.

Laxey is a place of little trade, being composed of not more than thirty cottages. It has only one shop, apparently very ill supplied, and two public houses. For butcher's meat and many other articles of convenience the inhabitants send weekly to Douglas. The herring fishery of this place is not very considerable; and the present scarcity of salmon is attributed



to the water from the copper-mines. The river's banks are high and steep; and in some places well planted with trees. A little way up the valley is a flax-spinning mill upon a construction similar to that of Messrs. Moores near Douglas. The water is kept up by an embankment of stone, over which salmon, in the spawning season, were often seen to leap. Trout abound in Laxey river. Milbourn, who keeps a public-house near the bridge, a miner, a fisherman, and a very civil man, will readily inform the stranger where are the best spots for angling, furnish him with flies of his own making; and, I dare say, if asked, partake his sport. Laxey bridge is very narrow, and apparently ancient.

Lonan, the parish church, is a mile from the village. Its name is a corruption of Lomanus, the saint to whom it is dedicated, a son of Tigris, sister to St. Patrick, and the first bishop of Trim in Ireland.

In the year 1786, two hundred and thirty-seven pieces of silver were found in this parish by a person digging; and several others had been previously discovered.

Nearly two miles on the Douglas side of Laxey near the road, are about twelve stones

placed in a form somewhat oval. Just beyond the oval, and at one end of it, facing N. N. E. are two stones six feet high, one of which is cloven from top to bottom: the other stones are from two to three feet high. The mount on which they all stand is three or four feet high. The center of the mount has an excavation, seven feet long, three feet wide for about one-third of the length, and two feet for the remainder. The stones are of hard clay-slate. The landlady's daughter at Laxey gave me the following traditional story of them: The proprietor of the land on which they rest being desirous of removing them, took some labourers to effect his purpose. Being arrived at the stones, and looking back, he saw his house on fire, and consequently returned in haste. Having arrived at home he found his house as it should be, but saw the stones on fire. The man was too wise to disregard so clear an omen; and the stones have ever since remained undisturbed. The natives do not seem to form even a conjecture of their original use, nor ever to have heard of such beings as Druids.

Oncan is a village rather more than two miles from Douglas. The church is dedicated to

Onca, the mother of St. Patrick. In the churchyard are usually buried the deceased aliens of Douglas. From the high ground of this parish and from Clayhead, are fine views of the sea, usually enlivened by coal brigs trading between Cumberland and Dublin, and of smaller vessels sailing in or out of Douglas harbour.

From Oncan to Douglas is a pleasant walk over the sands. We approach them by a mountain cascade, which some years ago turned the wheel of a corn mill, now burned down; and further on, pass another somewhat similar, both being destitute of trees or bushes.

Being returned from the promised excursion, I have now only to conduct the reader through the inland parish of Marown, intersected by the road from Douglas to St. John's. The church is situated on its southern side, five miles from Douglas and six from Peel. The road is very pleasant, and one part of it is over a rising ground, called Lhiaght y Kinny, the Grave of Kinny, who is said to have attempted, for a trifling wager, to run stark naked, on a very snowy winter's day, from Douglas to Bishop's-court and back, and who, on returning, fell down dead on this spot.

Two lines of an epitaph are,

“ No debts, no laws obliged him to fly  
From the dear land of his nativity.”

The subject of the poetry was an Irishman.

Nearly opposite the turning to Kirk Marown are the walls of Old Kirk, formerly called St. Trinion's, said to have been erected in consequence of a vow made by a ship-wrecked person. The present ruinous state of the building is ascribed to the malice of some unlucky demons who, for want of better employment, amused themselves with throwing off the roof. A great quantity of *Adiantum*, maiden-hair, grows about the walls.



## BOOK II.

### ON THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE ISLE OF MAN.

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#### CHAPTER I.

##### *On the Constitution.*

**T**HE nature of the constitution of a country is known by the powers and acknowledged rights of the people. If these have no share, by representation or otherwise, in any legislative or juridical concerns, the constitution is despotic, whether there is one or more governors, or whether the country itself is under the subjection of a foreign power. As the people acquire a voice in making or executing a law, the constitution becomes mixed; and when they have obtained an exclusive voice, it is democratical. I pass over aristocracies, polygarchies, oligarchies, and hierarchies, whether Druidical, Christian, or of any other religious sect, because they may be, and often are, as arbitrary as an absolute monarchy.

Before I speak of the present constitution of the Isle of Man, I will acquaint the reader with whatever I have been able to discover, respecting the rights which the inhabitants have acquired or lost, during the lapse of ages.

Tradition traces this island to the government of the Druids, bloody tyrants,\* who endeavoured to conceal their despotism, as has been too often the practice in modern days, under the mask of religion. Whether this nation was then dependent on any other we are not informed.

When Druidism was overthrown, and when the people were first subdued by a tribe of northern barbarians, we can only conjecture. Neither Cæsar, Ptolemy, nor Pliny ever visited this place; they do not appear ever to have seen a native or inhabitant; what they relate of it is founded upon hear-say; and we can learn little more from them, except that it existed in their time.

It is generally admitted, but without much foundation, that the wonder-working St. Patrick, the tutelary saint of Scotland and of Ireland, converted this island to Christianity about

\* ——— Excisique luci, sævis superstitionibus sacri : nam cruore captivo adolere aras, et hominum fibris consulere deos, fas habebant. Tacitus, Ann. lib. 14, c. 30.

the middle of the fourth century. It is not to be supposed that the opinions of a whole nation, particularly on a subject to which people, if not bigotted, are usually zealously attached, religion, should be suddenly changed. The tradition is therefore worthy of credit that the Druids retained much of their power for a considerable time afterwards, and were obliged to yield it only gradually to the new race of bishops.

In the tenth century it was taken by Orry, a Danish prince; and till this reign it does not appear that the people had the least share in the government. He conquered also the Orcades and Hebrides, and gave directions that the inhabitants of Man should choose sixteen representatives, and the out-isles eight, to assist him in the government. This was an act of policy in Orry, and obtained the object of his wish, a reign undisturbed by domestic commotion. These representatives were called *Taxiaxes*, signifying pledges or hostages; but, for what time they were elected, though most probably for life; what power was granted to them; or how long the institution itself lasted, are points which we are without the means of ascertaining. Their name, indeed, would imply that they



had no power at all, but were merely hostages, taken from different parts of the country to ensure its allegiance.

Although Macon, a subsequent king of the same century, acknowledged subjection to the English throne, we have no reason to suppose that its internal government was altered.

Very soon afterwards, in the year 1066, it was conquered by a Norwegian subject; all the lands, southward of the mountain ridge, were seized by the conquerors; and all, northward, confirmed to the inhabitants, as a condition of the peace. In 1098, the King of Norway took possession of it, but generally governed it by a feudal lord. From 1066 to 1270, the transactions of which period are related in the *Chronicon Manniæ*, no mention is made of the *Taxiaxes* or House of Keys, or of any share which the people had in the government. We have, on the contrary, every reason to believe that it was an absolute monarchy. Under a government so arbitrary that the monarch claimed and took possession of the landed property, granting it to his followers on his own conditions, it was not to be expected that the previously existing laws would be much, if at all, attended to.

From the year 1270, in which it was taken by Alexander, King of Scotland, to the reign of Edward the Third, who assisted Montacute to wrest it from that nation, we are equally in the dark respecting its internal polity. Whatever power might be granted to the people in the execution of the laws, it is not probable that they had any voice in making them. The House of Keys seems to have been in existence, during at least the latter part of this period, but to have had its jurisdiction confined to the determining of the laws, and to the petitioning of the lord for new ones: not to the enacting of them.

It appears by one of the early statutes, that the Keys and the Commons of Man were accustomed to be present at the proclamation of a law, and in fact formed part of the Tynwald Court; but I judge that they came to hear and consent rather than to debate or dissent.\* It is not how-

\* " A Court of all the Commons of Man, holden at Tinwald, before Henry Byron, Lieutenant of Man, upon Thursday next after the feast of St. Mary, in the year of our Lord God 1429; in the which William Scarffe, William Yveno, John Reade, Jenkin M'Qualtrough, John Nelson, Gubon Quanty, Ffinloe M'Key, Jenkin Lucas for Jenkin M'Nyne, Patrick M'John, Andrew M'John, Gubon M'Kissage,

ever improbable that the Keys signed the laws.\* The preamble of the statute-book states that the laws then extant were made, not only with the consent of the lord, barons, deemsters, and officers, but also of the tenants, inhabitants and commons of the land.† I suppose the case to be, that the last mentioned classes did not dissent. Perhaps most of those, present at the proclamation, gave a cheer.

When the Deemsters' authority commenced, we cannot tell; it was only a branch of despotism.

There were no written laws till the time of

William M'Alexander, Richard M'Cowen, Donald M'Connane, Peter M'Quiggin, Gubon Gillander, Germot M'Martin, Gubon M'Cunneree, with the rest of his fellows." Statute book.

\* "In the same court all these laws of Man are confirmed by Sir John Stanley, by the grace of God, King of Man and the Isles, and by the best of the Commons of the Isle of Man, that is to say, William Scarffe; Raynold Stevenson, and others." Statute, dated 1422.

† "In this book ensueth diverse ordinances, statutes, and customs, presented, reputed, and used for laws in the land of Man, that were ratified, approved, and confirmed, as well by the Honourable Sir John Stanley, Knight, King and Lord of the same land, and diverse others, his predecessors, as by all barons, deemsters, officers, tenants, inhabitants, and commons of the same land." Beginning of the Statute-book, no date.

Michael Blundell; and all that I can learn of him or them is this expression in the statute-book, being an answer of the Deemsters and twenty four Keys, chiefly on points of law, put to them by Sir John Stanley, A. D. 1492: "And as to the writing of laws, there was never any written since King Orry's days, but in the time of Michael Blundell, that we have knowledge of."

At this time it was declared by the deemsters and twenty four Keys that the twenty four Keys were not a necessary part of the government, but were dependant upon the Lord's pleasure. This declaration, and other grievances occasioned so much discontent among the people, that the Governor in one assault narrowly escaped with life. It was deemed prudent to temper rather than resist this spirit; and, in the year 1430, the Governor assembled six men chosen by the people from each of the six sheadings, or divisions of the island, and from each of the six elected four. The twenty four were sworn into office, and proceeded to try offences.

This was a dawning of liberty, quickly overcast by the representatives themselves. So little idea had they of any permanent system of go-

vernment, grounded in part upon democratic principles, that, as soon as any member died, the majority of the remainder proceeded to elect another. This establishment, however imperfect, proved, nevertheless to be a great check to the encroachments of the Lord, and was of great service to the country.

In such a small territory as the Isle of Man, its inhabitants being nearly ignorant of commerce, new laws were seldom requisite; and we cannot tell, whether a legislative power was intended at this period to be given to the House of Keys. The first new law after this æra was in 1609, (unless, indeed, the Lord's resolutions of 1593, confirmed by the Council and Keys be so termed,) when the Keys were consulted upon the subject.\* The oppressive declaration had never been retracted, or qualified. Although they were not then the representatives of the

\* In the statute of 1609, they are all named, and the preamble runs thus:

*"Castle Rushen, 10th Oct. 1609.*

At an assembly of the lieutenant and other the officers, with the twenty four, called the keys of the land, for the consulting and determining of matters concerning the state of the land, there was these statutes ensuing made and enacted."

people, but a self-elected body, they henceforth obtained a voice in the making of most laws; and the preamble of this, and nearly all the future statutes mention the consent of the Lord, the Lord's Council or officers, Deemsters and twenty four Keys. At the same time it appears remarkable that several arbitrary orders of James Lord Strange, in 1636, did not occasion, as far as we know, any complaint; and that the Keys did not consent to, or remonstrate against a money-bill before the year 1736.

In the reign of Orry the constitution originated. It quickly died away: it revived: it was strengthened in the fifteenth century: it arrived at its zenith in the eighteenth century; but is now too much blended with the English government to retain any independence of its own.

The powers and limitations of the different parts of the government of Man seem never to have been well defined; and, in the legislative functions, to have been subject to considerable variations. I shall now speak of them separately.

The sovereign was formerly a feudal lord, and possessed much power over his subjects, claiming

their services at all times.\* How much power was vested in him, when the constitution came to be more settled, was not agreed upon by our greatest English lawyers; some, and amongst them Lord Coke, giving to him, not only judicial, but legislative authority; and others allowing to him, in the latter capacity, no more than a negative upon proposed laws. Chaloner seems to have imbibed the former opinion; for he says, in the dedication of his work to Lord Fairfax, "There is put into your hands the exercising of a legislative as well as ministerial authority in an eminent degree." Such as em-

\* Extracts from the beginning of the Statute-book, without either date or signature:

"Regulations.—First, that watch and ward be kept through your land as it ought, upon pain of life and lyme; for, whosoever fails any night in his ward forfeiteth a wether to the warden; and to the warden the second night a cowe; and the third night, life and lyme to the lord.

"And, to charge all manner of men to be ready at your calling, upon pain of life and lyme.

"Also, touching the carriage of your turves, all your tenants of your six shreadings ought, by our laws, to carry your turves to your places as pleaseth you to have them, with all other carriages, suits and services, that are needful to you, within your land of Man: for it is use and custom of long time."

brace this opinion maintain that the authority of the House of Keys was formerly only judicial. The report of his Majesty's commissioners, appointed in 1792, without throwidg much light upon the subject, serves only to confirm our doubts; for there we are told that "the laws, enacted in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries appear to have been prescribed by such different powers, or combinations of power, that, as precedents for the exercise of legislative authority, they can have little weight." It is, however, certain that, since the act of settlement of 1703, and probably for a long time before, the exertion of his Lordship's or of his lieutenant's legislative authority extended no further than a *veto*. Subsequently to this period, there has been no other change than the sale of the regalities, and certain revenues to the King of England, consequently Lord, of the island; and the interference of the English legislature relative to the custom-house department.

The right of selling a royalty pre-supposes that the nation is composed of slaves; that the tenure of a king is an absolute property, not a trust. What would be thought of the King of England's selling his royalties to Buonaparte?



That the Duke of Athol was a lord, subject to the king, may be some extenuation ; but, to alienate the public revenue of a nation seems a great stretch of despotic power.

The King of England has the appointment of all the military ; and all the chief civil officers. He alone has the power of pardoning criminals ; and may in council hear, and finally determine, all appeals from the decision of the Governor or of the Keys. His consent is necessary to the passing of all laws. Since the rejection of the bill for triennial parliaments by King William, no English King has refused his assent to any bill which had passed the Lords and Commons. With respect to the Manks legislature the same scrupulosity is not observed. In the year 1798 several bills were returned altered to the Keys, one of which, in its new form, they rejected.

The Governor holds his office, by his Majesty's appointment. He is chancellor, *ex officio*, and, by himself or deputy, hears appeals, not relative to land, from the decision of inferior courts, reversing or confirming them according to his judgment. The consent of himself or of his lieutenant is necessary to the making of a law ; but not that of the Lord-proprietor, at present

the Duke of Athol, unless he holds one of these situations. The latter may, however, enter *caveats* against the King's consent, and have his petition heard; and in, or about, the year 1789 he actually did so.\*†

The powers of the King and Governor were previously to the re-revesting act vested in the Lord alone, except that the King possessed the authority of altering, on appeal being made to him in council, the decisions of the Manks' Courts. The whole proceedings of Governor Horne against Bishop Wilson were thus reversed. The right of coining money, of pardoning criminals, and various other kingly powers attached

\* Vide Report of the commissioners, to whom the Duke complained, that bills detrimental to his interests had passed the legislature without his knowledge, and had been transmitted to the King, against whose consent he had entered *caveats*.

† The present Governor and Lord-proprietor has the following titles: The most noble John Duke of Athol, Marquis and Earl of Athol, Marquis of Tullibardin, Earl of Strathsay and of Strathardel, Viscount of Glenalmond and Glenlyon, Lord Murray, Balveny and Gask, Lord of the Isle of Man, Constable of the Castle of Kincleven, and hereditary keeper of the palace of Falkland. His English titles are Earl Strange, and Baron Murray, conferred upon him August 8th, 1786. His chief seats are at Blair in Athol, Dunkeld, Tullibardin, and Huntingtower, all in Perthshire.

to the Lord. The governor is chancellor, *ex officio* : all arrests, either civil or criminal, are granted by him, and he may, at his pleasure, convene branches of the legislature.

The Lieutenant-governor, or Governor, as he was usually called, possessed whatever power his Lord or Sovereign thought proper to confer, and this was usually the whole. He was termed the representative of majesty. The Scotch and English lord-proprietors meddled little with internal affairs, and rarely visited this dominion : the chief care of government devolved therefore upon him. When the appointment came to be made by the King of England, the plan was somewhat changed ; and the nature of the office made certain. He has now all the powers of the Governor during his absence ; and none during his presence, except what the Governor does not think proper to resume. It is not however his practice to consent to the making of laws ; and I observe, in the statute-book, only one instance in which he has so done, A. D. 1776. All other acts specify the consent of the Governor in chief, whether the Tynwald-court be held before himself or the Lieutenant-governor.

The Council consists of five persons, holding

their seats *ex officio*, viz. the Lord Bishop, the Water Bailiff, the Attorney-general, the Clerk of the Rolls, and the Archdeacon.\* The consent of a majority of these, previously to that of the king, is necessary to the passing of a law. Respecting the right of a seat in this body, various opinions have been held; and much controversy has arisen. In the year 1776, the Governor excluded from the council the bishop and the vicar-general, alleging that their seats were held only through courtesy. The spiritual officers, however, maintained a right to their seats, and claimed admission. The claim, though protested against by the Attorney-general, was allowed by the Lieutenant-governor. The following is a list of persons who had either a certain or doubtful right of admission: the Receiver-general, the Comptroller, the Clerk of the Rolls, the Water-bailiff, the Attorney-general, the two Deemsters, the Arch-deacon and his Official, the Bishop and his two Vicars-general, and the Collector. In order to end the controversy, a statement of their re-

\* In Jefferson's *Manks Almanack* are annually published the names of the members of the council, and of the other chief civil officers.

spective claims was sent to England about ten years ago for his Majesty's determination.

The twenty-four Keys are the last branch of the Manks legislature. The consent of a majority of them is necessary to the passing of a law; and a bill usually originates in this house. They are considered the guardians of the people, particularly so of the landed interest, and their power is as well judicial as legislative. An appeal may be made to them from the inferior courts. In all actions real, and in appeals, their decision is conclusive between the parties, unless the cause be carried before the king in council. They determine in all cases by a majority; and herein differ essentially from a jury, whose verdict must be, or rather must be said to be, unanimous. In intricate law cases they are required to determine what the law of the land is; every determination forming a precedent for future cases. Bishop Wilson derives their name from their office of unlocking the difficulties of the law. So little was the constitution settled, that it is still a doubtful point whether the Governor had power to prorogue them, or whether they might continue sitting till they thought proper to separate. Their election of a speaker is sub-

ject to the approbation of the king: he gives, when required, the casting vote. In their legislative capacity their debates are always private.

When a vacancy happens by the death of any one of them, the majority of the remainder fix upon two persons, either of whom they deem eligible to occupy his place. Their names are presented to the Governor, who makes choice of one. The situation is for life, except in cases of criminal conduct, resignation, or the acceptance of any place entitling him to a seat in the council. It brings with it considerable honour, much trouble, but no emolument. The Keys always possessed, and seem never to have abused, the confidence of the people. In the seventeenth century, they strongly resisted the encroachments attempted to be made by the lord upon the landed interest, and finally, in the year 1703, obtained the act of settlement or covenant between them. Foreigners as well as natives, not excluding the clergy, are eligible to seats in this house, the only requisite qualification being the possession of land, and the age of twenty-one years. Were the House of Keys once corrupt, it would probably continue so for ever; its very nature is such, that it could never be purified,

Although the people are no way concerned in their election, the Keys style themselves their representatives, as is evinced in a letter, of which the following is a copy, dated March 13, 1798, at a time when persons of almost all ranks were making subscriptions for carrying on the war :

“ The Keys of the Isle of Man, the constitutional representatives of the people, warmly attached to their sovereign, and the constitution of Great Britain, offer this, their mite, in aid of their cause : and they feelingly regret that, in tendering so small a sum,\* there is so great a disproportion between their wishes and their abilities, having no public funds at their disposal, and being prevented from raising any, in consequence of an influence, equally unjust and impolitic, which, unfortunately for their country, they are unable to remove.”

It appears by the letter, that the different branches of government were not, at this time, too cordially connected. An act of 25 Geo. III. grants to the House of Keys the discretionary power of permitting the importation of cured herrings in times of scarcity. This is the only

\* The sum inclosed was 175*l*.

place where they are acknowledged in any British act of parliament.

Laws passed by the legislature of this island are called acts of Tinwald. Before they become binding upon the people, they must, according to long usage, be promulgated from a certain artificial mount, near the spot where the high-road from Castletown to Ramsey, and that from Douglas to Peel, cross each other, called the Tinwald-hill, the day of the nativity of John the Baptist being formerly the only usual time of such promulgation. Hence it is, that the acts derive their name.

Besides the statutes or acts of Tinwald are some ordinances which, by custom, have the force of law. They may be termed part of the common law; and originated in orders and regulations made by separate branches of the legislature, but which did not receive the assent of all. They are quite unconstitutional. Some persons have thought, but erroneously, that present ordinances, or such acts as have passed that part of the legislature resident in Man, but have not been signed by the King of England, would be binding upon the people. About the year 1790, some bills passed the Manks branches of the



legislature, which they wished to put in force without delay, and waited for nearly two years before the King's pleasure respecting them was known. His consent to them, in the original form, was finally refused. Had modern ordinances the force of law, no delay would have been requisite; and, indeed, the King's consent would be nugatory.

The ceremonies of the promulgation are now greatly fallen off and altered. The following account of the forms recently observed, I copy from a copy:

“ About eleven o'clock the cavalcade arrived at St. John's, where the Duke of Athol was received by the Clergy and Keys, and saluted by the fencibles: he then went in state to the chapel, where a sermon was preached by the reverend and learned Mr. Corlett, vicar of Kirk German.

After service followed the procession of state. The fencibles were drawn up in two lines, from the chapel door to the Tinwald-hill; and the procession passed between the two lines in the following order:

The clergy, two and two, the juniors first.

The Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man.

**The Vicars general.**

**The two Deemsters.**

**The Sword-bearer.**

**The Duke of Athol, Governor.**

**The Lieutenant-governor.**

**The Clerk of the Rolls.**

**The twenty-four Keys, two and two.**

**The Captains of the different parishes.**

‘As soon as his Grace had ascended the hill, he was seated, under the canopy, in his chair of state. The Deemsters then proceeded in the customary business of the day. The new laws were first read in English and then in Manks: and after all the business on the hill was gone through, three cheers were given.

His Grace then descended, and the procession moved back to the chapel in the same regular order. After the necessary business was finished in the chapel, such as signing the laws, &c. his Grace was conducted to his coach.\*”

The ancient manner of holding a court was much more ceremonious; and I copy from the beginning of the statute-book the following regulations and instructions:

“ Our doughtful and gracious Lord, this is the constitution of old time, the which we have given in our days, how yee should be governed on your Tinwald day. Ffirst, you shall come thither in your royall array, as a king ought to do by his prerogatives and royallties of the land of Mann; and, upon the Hill of Tinwald, sitt in a chaire, covered with a royall cloath and cusheons, and your visage unto the east, and your sword before you, holden with the point upward, your barrons in the third degree sitting beside you, and your beneficed men, and your deemsters before you sitting, and your clarke, your knights, esquires, and yeomen, about you, in third degree; and the worthiest men in your land to be called in before your deemsters, if you will ask any thing of them, and to hear the government of your land, and your will; and the commons to stand without the circle of the hill, with three clarkes in their surplises. And your deemsters shall make call in the coroner of Glanfaba; and he shall call in all the coroners of Mann, and their yards in their hands, with their weapons upon them, either sword or axe; and the moares, that is, to wit of every sheading. Then the chief coroner, that is, the coro-

nor of Glanfabâ shall make a fience upon paine of life and lyme, that no man make any disturbance, or stirre, in the time of Tinwald; or any murmur, or riseing in the king's presence, upon paine of hanging and drawing. And then shall let your barrons and all others know you to be their King and Lord."

The Isle of Man was not affected by any other than its own laws till the reign of Henry the Eighth, when an act passed the English legislature, and was extended to this island, for vesting in the crown all the monasteries and abbey lands.

The second act, relative to this country, passed in the same reign, dissevered the dioceses of Chester and of the Isle of Man from the Archbishoprick of Canterbury, and united them to the province and Archbishoprick of York.

The third, passed in the fifth year of the reign of Elizabeth, restricted the quantity of French wine, to be imported annually into the Isle of Man, to one hundred tons; and it appears, that the island paid much more deference at that time, than it did afterwards, to the English government.

Between this period and the fifth year of his

present Majesty, no act was passed immediately relative to the island. Wherever we find the place mentioned at all, reference is made to its commerce with Great Britain and Ireland, the regulations taking place upon our own coasts. In the year 1765, the Sovereign of the Isle of Man sold his regalities to the King of England. As the sale did not in itself, but only in its consequences, alter the law of the land, I shall at present confine myself to the consequences, and speak hereafter of the sale, and the additional compensation to the present Duke of Athol.

The Manks legislature seem to have imagined that, with the royalties of the Lord, were sold all the rights and privileges possessed by themselves; and that these last were retained merely by the courtesy of the King of England. The first act of Tinwald, after the sale, was passed in 1776. It recites the title of the act of revestment: and we learn by the preamble that his Majesty had been most graciously pleased to grant his royal leave and permission to the customary legislature of the island, (himself being now the Lord) to enact what laws might be found necessary to the interior good government and police of the isle.

Since the sale, the legislature of England has assumed the entire power of enacting laws respecting the customs or port-dues of the island, and also of regulating or prohibiting any manufactures which might be liable to affect the revenue: in the internal economy and laws it has not interfered. I do not mean to insinuate that the English legislature has acted improperly in such assumption. Public good is superior to individual justice; and if the public good required the acquisition of such power, it was the duty of the government to obtain it, either by consent or assumption. Plutarch carries this principle so far as to term the rape of the Sabines, since it was undertaken for the public good, a glorious exploit. When property is obtained by violence, an equivalent should be returned to the proprietor, as is done in the making of high-roads or canals, a practice which very much lessens the individual injustice; but the rights and customs of a people are inalienable by the governors, consequently, no compensation could be made. To have given to their representatives seats in the British parliament, would have been a measure of apparent compensation. The original Manks govern-

ment would then, of course, have been annihilated, instead of altered ; and the people would have been much more discontented.

The King could purchase only what the Lord possessed : but the Lord had no power, and he afterwards admitted it, to levy or increase a single tax upon the people : consequently the interference of the English government relative to revenue matters was nearly as great a stretch of power after the sale, as it would have been before it.

The chief civil officers are, the Governor and Lieutenant-governor, one of them being chancellor, *ex officio* : the two Deemsters or judges, one for the southern, the other for the northern division of the island, being necessarily natives : the Water-bailiff, the High-bailiffs, one in each of the four towns, being also natives ; the Coroners, or sheriffs, one for each of the six sheadings : the Lockmen, or bailiffs, Coroners' officers ; and the Constables.

The two first officers have been already spoken of : the second, being judges and justices of the peace, will be mentioned with the county which they preside in : as will the water-bailiff also.

The Coroner is the chief keeper of the peace, and is authorised and obliged to arrest any one who breaks it. He is also to take care that the Governor's arrests be put into execution. He has the impanelling of all juries, the care of executing the sentences of the courts of law; and some other civil duties to perform: but he does not in any instance act as judge. The bailiffs are his officers; and the constables are peace officers.\*

\* This and the succeeding Chapters of the Second Part are chiefly founded upon "The Statute Laws of the Isle of Man," a literal copy, with a very few exceptions, of the original Statute book, published at Douglas in 1797, now scarce; and upon information which I derived from Captain Quilliam of His Majesty's Navy, and Mr. Cosnahan, Members of the House of Keys.



## CHAPTER II.

### *On the Revenue.*

**AS** the purpose of a government is, or ought to be, to maintain order in society, to protect the inhabitants from domestic disturbance, or the invasion of a foreign foe; so ought the people to contribute, according to their means, to the support of such a government.

The revenue of a country is public property, and should be devoted exclusively to purposes of public benefit.

The laws of society, being founded upon general utility, have little to do with those of nature; and justice enters little into war. The modern laws of civilized nations are so much ameliorated, that the inhabitants of a conquered country retain their private property. Formerly their land and themselves were both seized by the invaders. We find Godred Crovan taking possession of the lands of Man and granting them to his soldiers on certain conditions. From this period, perhaps before, the possessors of the soil

were the Lord's tenants, paying him a rental; and are frequently so termed in the statutes. The rental had for so long a time remained unaltered that people thought, while they continued to pay them, that they had a right to the soil; and one of the lords, endeavouring in the seventeenth century to eject some of them, caused discontents which terminated in an act of settlement or compact between the Lord and his people in the year 1703, wherein the tenures are, on certain fines or rentals, confirmed to the possessors. Thus, though the seizing of lands by the conqueror was no better than a robbery, yet have long usage, and especially the above-mentioned agreement, secured to the Lord-proprietor, and his heirs, for ever, the right of a certain revenue, amounting to fourteen hundred pounds, Manks currency, for his and their individual use.

All money, either for public services not specified, or for the benefit of the Lord, his manorial rights, a few fees, fines, and prerogatives excepted, arose from a duty on imports and exports, the most just of taxes, whenever the public good requires them, and less felt by the people than any other. By whose authority it was levied we cannot tell, most probably by that of

the lord alone. The statute wherein it is first mentioned is dated 1577, and though it does not appear that the Deemsters and Keys were consulted upon the occasion, yet the note at the end would imply that they were, did we not learn by a subsequent act of 1736, that they were not consulted on a similar occasion in 1692. I suppose this order or first book of rates to be rather intended to ascertain or settle what were doubtful than to enact new ones. To shew the reader the duties of those days, when money was a scarce commodity, the record is here annexed.

“The rates of the Customs at every port within the Isle of Man, allowed and confirmed by the Right Honourable Henry, Earl of Derby, Lord of the said Isle. Given the 28th of June, Anno Domini 1577.

*s. d.*

The merchant stranger shall pay for every pound in silver he shall take forth of the Isle. ....	0	2½
Ale, the barrel. ....	0	1½
Ash timber, the 100. ....	0	6
Alum the 100 ....	0	2
Anchorage, a ship, bark or prickard, with a cock-boat	0	8
..... without a cock-boat	0	4
Barley, the bowle, in the bulk of the stranger. ....	0	1
In cask the barley. ....	0	2
Barley in bulk, the bowle of the Isle ....	0	1

	s.	d.
Barley in cask, the barrel .....	0	1
Bread, the batch .....	0	2
Bisket, the 100 .....	0	1
Beefe, the carkasse .....	0	2
Beefe, quick .....	0	12
Boards, sawn, or cloven, the 100 .....	0	6
Butter, the barrel .....	0	1
Beere, the barrel .....	0	2
Brass, the 100lbs .....	0	8
Woollen cloth, broad, the 100 .....	2	0
..... broad, the dozen .....	0	2
..... narrow, the 100 .....	0	8
..... narrow, the dozen .....	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fourty slatts raw cloth .....	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Coals, the boate, 1 barrel, or .....	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Irish linen cloath, the 100 .....	0	6
Puldary, the bolt .....	0	6
Vitteras, the bolt .....	0	3
Calfe-skins, the 100 .....	0	12
..... the dozen .....	0	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cheese, the weight (256lbs) .....	0	6
Caddowes .....	0	2
Dapous, the dozen .....	0	6
Windfish, the dozen .....	0	6
Dryfish, the dozen .....	0	6
Fish, the ton .....	0	12
Eeles cane, the 100 .....	0	8
Fish, the barrel .....	0	2
Ffledges .....	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fflocks, the stone .....	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flax, the bale .....	0	1
Sheep and calves the 100 .....	0	12
..... the dozen .....	0	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lambs and kidds, the 100 .....	0	6

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Lambs and kidds, the dozen.....	0	1
Feathers, a stone .....	0	2
Goates, quick, the dozen .....	0	4
Goate fells, the 100.....	0	6
..... the dozen .....	0	0½
Geese, the dozen.....	0	3
Ox-hydes eight to the dicker; cow-hydes 10 to the dicker .....		
Hydes, the dicker. ....	0	3
Haberdine, the 100.....	0	6
Herrings, the ton. ....	0	12
Horses, one .....	0	6
Herrings, the maze .....	0	1
Hops, the 100 .....	0	6
Honey, the firkin .....	0	1½
Henns, the dozen.....	0	2
Iron, the ton.....	0	12
.... the 100. ....	0	0½
Kidds, the dozen.....	0	4½
Kidd fells, the 100. ....	0	6
..... the dozen.....	0	1
Lambs, quick, the dozen .....	0	4
Lamb-skins, the 100.....	0	6
..... the dozen.....	0	1
Lyme, the boat, a barrel or.....	0	1½
Mather, the 100 .....	0	5
Maulte, the bowle .....	0	1
Mantles, one .....	0	2
Ruggs, the 100 .....	0	2
Nails, the 1000 .....	0	3
..... the last .....	2	6
Oak timber, or spars, the hundred, 3 <i>d.</i> or .....	0	6
Oares, the hundred, 3 <i>d.</i> or .....	0	6
Oates, the bowle .....	0	1
Pitch, the hundred .....	0	1½

Pitch, the foot pack .....	0	6
..... the horse pack .....	0	12
Planks for ships, the 100, 3 <i>d.</i> or .....	0	12
Plow balmes, the 100, 3 <i>d.</i> or .....	0	8
Pewter, the 100 .....	0	8
Pullen, the dozen .....	0	2
Rossin, the hundred .....	0	1 <i>½</i>
Hair ropes, the dozen .....	0	1 <i>½</i>
Ropes, British, the 100 .....	0	6
Rugg frized, the dozen .....	0	1 <i>½</i>
Raisen, the ffrail or head .....	0	3
Rye, the bowle .....	0	1
Sheep, the dozen .....	0	4
Swine, the dozen .....	0	4
Salt, the tonn .....	0	12
Ships with salt, British or Portugal, inward, shall pay a quarter tonn before the mast, and another above the mast, if it be twenty tonns, or els the half		
Shoes, the dozen .....	0	3
Shafts square, the 100, 3 <i>d.</i> or .....	0	6
Salmon, the butt, .....	0	6
..... the barrel .....	0	3
..... the firkin .....	0	1 <i>½</i>
Soap, the hundred .....	0	4 <i>½</i>
Sheep skins the dozen .....	0	0 <i>½</i>
Sack, the butt .....	0	6
A small boat or pickard, laden with white grey Eng- lish salt, shall pay a finlet before the mast, and ano- ther after		
Tallow, the weight (256 lb.) .....		
Trayne, the tunn .....	0	16
Tarr, the hundred .....	0	1 <i>½</i>
Tallow, the hundred .....	0	6
Tanned leather, the dicker, in the country .....	0	6
..... and the stranger man .....	0	10

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Wyne, the tunn .....	0	12
A shipp with wyne, that is, twenty tunns or more, shall pay the price wines, viz. half a tunn before the mast, and half a tunn above the mast; and for every other of the rest 12d. the tunn, as is above said: and if the shipp have ten tunns, then to pay half a tunn to price wyne, and not under.		
Wool, the stone .....	0	2
Wadde, the ballet .....	0	8
..... the hundred .....	0	6
Wheate, the bowle .....	0	1
Woolen cards, the dozen .....	0	3
The entering of every boat, bark, or pickard .....	0	1
The anchorage in dry harbours, or within the heads, having a cock boat .....	0	8
— without a cock boat .....	0	4
Oares of every boate, after the rate of paying for a hundred .....	0	8
Shafts, spars, plow-beames, oak-timber, and all other kinds of timber, the 100, 3d. or .....	0	8

Whether the custom-house revenue yielded, at that time, any surplus to the Lord, after payment of the public expenses, of the island may, with some persons, appear a doubtful matter. I suspect that it did; since all the civil officers were entitled to certain fees from the inhabitants, as a compensation for the trouble given to them: and I do not find that any but the Deemsters had a salary from the Lord. This was a discretionary one of 7*l.* 10*s.* to each, afterwards increased to 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* and again reduced in 1636 to the

original sum. The Lord himself had various perquisites; and among them a fee for every action at common law. I am further confirmed in my opinion by not finding in the estimate of the revenue of the island, made out for the Lords of the Treasury by Duke John and the late Duchess-dowager, any deductions for the support of the established government.

The duties were increased in the year 1692; but the book of rates does not appear among the statutes, although referred to by an act of 1736, wherein most of the old duties were confirmed with several additions; and prizage of wine commuted for the payment of ten shillings per tun. \*

In the time of the last Earl of Derby, Lord of Man, the customs were estimated at 2,500*l.* per annum, and were farmed by him to an English merchant. The public expenditure of the same æra was 700*l.* per annum. †

In the course of the last century, the smuggling trade had so much increased, that the Duke of Athol, the Lord, obtained for his pri-

\* Prizage of wine was abolished in England in the reign of Edward I.

† *Encyclopædia Britannica.*



vate use the annual surplus of nearly six thousand pounds, British.

An abstract of the clear revenue, derived from the island by the Lord, for the ten years, beginning with 1754 and ending with 1763, drawn up previously to the sale, states the average annual amount to be 7293*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* arising as follows:

	Income for the 10 Years. <i>s.</i>			Average Income per Ann.		
Land revenue .....	13,981	4	1	1,398	2	5
Clear revenue of the customs	64,217	0	5½	6,421	14	0½
Clear revenue for herrings ..	1,258	8	10	125	16	11
Felons' goods, waifs, strays, forfeitures, wrecks, fines, per- quisites, &c. ....	1,042	3	3½	104	4	4
Clear revenue of the impro- priated tithes .....	2,305	0	4½	230	10	0½
Clear revenue of the abbey temporalities .....	1,217	10	0	121	15	0
Income of land in the hands of the Lord of Man .....	1,063	19	5½	106	7	11
	85,085	6	6½	8,508	10	8
	72,930	5	6	7,293	0	6½

The revenues given up to England for the sum of seventy thousand pounds British, were only those of the second and third heads, amounting to 5,612*l.* 3*s.* 8*d.* British, per annum.

Public services specified, and for which internal taxes, continual or occasional, are levied,

are of four sorts: the building or repairing of churches; the building of bridges; the making and keeping in order of high-roads; and the maintenance of the clergy.

No church can be erected at the public expense without an especial act of Tinwald. It is customary for such act to specify in what manner the necessary money is to be raised: and each parish is obliged to bear its own burden. The repairing of a church is a less important matter, and its necessity or expediency is determined by a majority of the parishioners themselves, convened by the church-warden for that purpose. The money, requisite for defraying the expenses, is levied upon the inhabitants in proportion to their rentals.

The building of a bridge requires a previous act of Tinwald. The expense incurred is usually defrayed by an annual poll-tax of one penny upon all the inhabitants, continued till a sufficient sum is received. Part of the revenue thus raised was once intended and used for the purpose of rebuilding St. John's chapel.

The high-road fund, a most essential one, arises from a tax upon every retailer of ale or spirits; a tax upon lands and houses; a tax upon

dogs; and some few and very trifling fines, not worth mentioning here, but which will be particularized when I speak of crimes and their punishments.

Retailers of ale and spirits used to pay to this fund, the annual sum of 9*s.* 9*d.* besides 14*d.* to the Governor's clerk, 7*d.* to the Comptroller for the drawing out of each licence, and 9*d.* to the Keys for the reparation of their house, and other necessary expenses: but the whole sum of 12*s.* 6*d.* has been, since the year 1776, devoted to the fund which we now speak of. Their number being three hundred, or nearly so, they contribute about 180*l.*

The proprietor of each quarter-land was to furnish four men for one day or term, or compound for their labour; other lands and houses, in proportion to their original, or Lord's rent. The penalty of not complying with the notice of the parochial surveyor to send such labourers was one shilling for each man deficient. One cart with two horses and a driver, when required, were considered equal to four men. All the inhabitants of a parish, possessing land or houses, were obliged to contribute thus in rotation, none being liable to more than three turns or days'

work in the course of one year. This labour being now almost invariably commuted into sums of money, produces between 700*l.* and 800*l.* per annum.

Whoever has, keeps, or makes use of any greyhound, half-bred greyhound, pointer, spaniel, or other dog, used or fit for coursing, pointing, setting, or shooting, is obliged to pay six shillings annually for each: for any hound, beagle, or other dog proper for hunting, or used for that purpose, three shillings: for all other dogs, sixpence. This tax produces from 60*l.* to 80*l.*

By these means is annually raised the sum of nearly 1000*l.* for making and repairing high-roads.

The officiating of clergymen, being a public benefit, should be paid for by the public. The application of tithes to any secular purpose, for instance, the Lord's private purse, is a perversion of their use.

The first establishment of tithes for the benefit of the clergy under the Christian dispensation, was made by Charlemagne, in order to support this class of society, then falling to decay, and as some compensation for the losses which they had sustained under his grandfather;

Charles Martel, who had seized upon all the church lands, forming, at that time, the greater part of the kingdom, and had distributed them among the soldiery. He divided the tithes into four parts, appropriating one to the bishop, another to maintaining the fabrick of the church, one to the poor, and the remaining one to the incumbent.\* On instituting a parochial clergy in England a similar plan was adopted. †

I have been unable to learn any thing of the early distribution of the tithes in Man. It appears, that the Lord had the greater part, the bishop a small part, perhaps dependant upon the Lord, ‡ and the inferior clergy a much smaller part. §. Gough, editor of Camden's *Britannia*,

\* Montesquieu.

† Blackstone.

‡ "There was a bishop of the isle, called *Episcopus Soderensis*, when the jurisdiction of all the Hebrides belonged to him: whereas, now, he is but a bishop's shadow; for albeit that he bear the name of Bishop of Man, yet have the Earls of Derby, as it is supposed, the chief profit of the see (saving that they allow him a little for a flourish), notwithstanding that they be his patrons."—"The Bishop of Man has not wherewithal to maintain his countenance sufficiently." *Hollinshed's Chronicles*, fol. vol. i. p. 38 and 146.

§ "It was accustomed, that all instituted vicars of pension, having five marks stipend, should have four nobles, at least, in tithes." *Spiritual laws and customs of the Isle of Man: A. D. 1577. Statute-book.*

says, that the Lord's share of tithes accrued to him "either as *lord* or *abbot*."

In the reign of Charles the Second, under the episcopate of Barrow, a collection was made for purchasing of the Lord-proprietor, for the use of the clergy, and the establishment of a free-school, one-third part of most of the impropriations; the Earl's lands at Bisphem in Lancashire being mortgaged for the payment.

The poor clergy have the annual sum of one hundred pounds, granted in the same reign, and payable out of the excise-revenue for ever. When all incomes for public services, with a few exceptions, rents of land, and all incomes of public companies, such as the new-river and insurance companies, were taxed in the year 1763, for that year only, with the sum of four shillings in the pound, this annuity was declared not to be included within the meaning of the act.

The general division of tithes is, at present, three-fold; one to the Bishop, one to the Lord-proprietor, where not granted away, and the remaining one to the incumbent. The parishes of Braddon and Rushen are exceptions to this order, the Bishop having one-third, and the Lord-proprietor two. The incumbents have also glebe-

lands and some fees, the former arising from private donations of charitable and religious people, of whom Bishop Wilson was the chief.

Tithes are, for the most part, a tenth of the produce of the soil ; and are divided into great and small. The latter consist of the following articles, commuted in the year 1643, into the annexed annual sums of money :

One milk cow . . . . . 4*s*.

Eight milk sheep . . . . . 2*s*.

Four milk goats . . . . . 2*s*.

The tithe of eggs was long before settled thus :

One hen . . . . . one egg.

One cock, if the only one, . two eggs.

These were to be brought to the church on every Easter-sunday, and it was usual for the minister to debar his parishioners from the communion, till the proper offering had been made. This practice was abolished in 1643 : the ministers were ordered to receive their parishioners to the communion on the Easter Sunday, and the people were ordered to pay their small tithes on one of the two following days\*.

The great tithes are taken from the farm, the

farmer having given due notice to the proper person.

Some of the estates are tithe free, the owners having purchased the tithes of one of the Lord-proprietors, who was authorized to sell them by an act of the English parliament. Others pay a *modus*, usually a very small one, in lieu of payment in kind. The Calf of Man does not, nor, I believe ever did, pay any tithe: nor should it do so, since it has not any church or minister to support. It is also free, and justly so, from all internal taxes, having no highways of its own, and receiving little advantage from those on the main land.

There was formerly a tithe upon all fresh fish landed; upon ale brewed; and a tithe of two-pence a year upon every man who was engaged in any science or occupation, even if he used it only three times in a year.

The tithes of a parish are frequently farmed by one person, who finds it his interest to make a composition with the farmers individually. Those of Rushen parish are now let for 150*l.* per ann. and this is thought to be superior to an average of all the parishes.



The clergy are entitled to a few perquisites, such as church-mortuaries of eight shillings from any deccadent, leaving twenty shillings or upwards, in personal effects.

The clerk and the church-warden, as well as the minister, deserve a remuneration for their trouble. The former had fourpence a year for every plough, and one penny from every person who did not keep a plough, but kept *smoak*, and also a trifling mortuary. These sums are now raised, and have some others added to them. The latter officer is elected for only one year, and is not, I believe, entitled to any other compensation than the service in their turn of his fellow parishioners.

The coroner was entitled to four-pence a year for every quarter-land, and to one penny for every mill, intack, or cottage. Most of the civil officers have some fee from the person employing them.

Every quarter-land used to contribute, annually, two shillings, and every intack sixpence to the Lord, in place of carriage-services for building or repairing forts and houses, an old feudal custom. For the last forty years they have been

falling gradually into disuse: the people refused payment, and they are not now demanded.

The Lord's prerogatives of mines, wrecks, treasure-trove, and some other things, should scarcely be considered as a revenue, derived from the public, and consequently are not mentioned here.

The other public services are the civil and military establishments of the country, and the making and repairing of harbours, paid for, since the revesting-act, by the British government, who, on the other hand, have the receipt of the custom-house revenue.

The act, which passed immediately after the revestment was relative only to trade, and to the prevention of any future smuggling. The old duties were continued till two years afterwards, when they were all repealed, and the following new ones levied:

		Quantity, not to exceed
British spirits	1 0 <i>per gal.</i>	50,000 gal. <i>pr. ann.</i>
Rum *	1 6 —	30,000
Bohea tea	1 0 <i>per lb.</i>	20,000 lbs.
Green tea	1 6 —	5,000
Coffee	0 9 —	5,000
Tobacco	0 2 —	120,000
Coals	0 8 <i>per chald.</i>	

\* It must be understood that, although brandy is mentioned among the articles to be imported at Douglas, the importation of all spirits, except British spirits and rum, is prohibited.

Hemp	$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{From foreign} \\ \text{parts} \end{array} \right\}$	5 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> .
Iron		
Deal boards		
Timber		

French wine ..... £4 per ton.

Any other wine ..... 2 ditto.

Foreign corn having been first im-  
ported into England, and there  
had a bounty allowed ..... } 10 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Any goods, wares, or merchandize,  
not specified in this act, imported  
from Great Britain or Ireland, }  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. *ad valorem*.

Flax	$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Except only from Great} \\ \text{Britain} \end{array} \right\}$	Duty free.
Flax seed		
Yarn		
Ashes		
Fish and flesh		
Corn		

Linen cloth of British or Irish fabrick	$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{From Great Britain or Ireland only, in} \\ \text{British vessels} \end{array} \right\}$	Duty free.
Hemp		
Hemp seed		
Horses and cattle		
Utensils & implements for agriculture		
Bricks and tiles		
Trees, sea-shells, lime		
Soap makers' waste		
Packthread and cordage		

Salt	$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Produce or ma-} \\ \text{anufacture of Gt.} \\ \text{Britain.} \end{array} \right\}$	$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{From Great Britain in British} \\ \text{vessels} \end{array} \right\}$	Duty free, but subject to be en- tered at the Cos- tom-house, under the penalty of 15 per cent. <i>ad va-</i> <i>lorem</i> .
Boards			
Timber			
Hoops			
Colonial goods, entitled to a bounty on importation into England	$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{From Great Britain in British} \\ \text{vessels} \end{array} \right\}$		
English or Colonial iron in rods or bars			

All linens, to be landed in the Isle of Man, must be exported from Great Britain or Ireland: glass and woollen goods, from Great Britain.

Tea, spirits, coffee, chocolate, tobacco, glass, coals, silks, wrought or unwrought, salt, and wine must not, on any account, be exported from the Isle of Man.

It is a remarkable circumstance, that the act, immediately following this, is one for laying a duty, in America, on English goods imported, neither nation having any representatives in the British parliament.

We learn, by a subsequent act of the same year, that, with the suppression of the contraband trade, the harbour-dues had nearly ceased, and that the harbours had become ruinous. The old duties were therefore repealed, and the following levied:

Herring boats, 10s. per annum; not a new duty, but a new modification and appropriation of an old one.	
Any ship belonging to his Majesty's subjects, in ballast only, putting into harbour	<i>s. d.</i>
bour .....	0 1½ per ton
The same, with cargo .....	0 2
The same, if repaired there, the additional sum of .....	0 1
Any foreign ship in ballast only .....	0 2

	<i>s. d.</i>
The same with cargo, not breaking bulk	0 3
The same, breaking bulk, the additional sum of.....	0 2
The same, if repaired there, the addi- tional sum of.....	0 2
The same, only anchoring in any of the baya .....	2 6
Also, on all spirits and wines imported..	2 6 per tun
Tobacco .....	1 6 per hhd.
Tea .....	2 0 per cwt.
Coffee .....	1 0 ditto.
Foreign goods not specified 10s. per cent.	<i>ad valorem</i> .
British goods not specified, salt excepted,	5s. <i>ad valorem</i> .

In 1767 a Manks post-office was established; and all regulations relative to the post-office of Great Britain were extended to this island. It was ordered, that a packet should sail weekly between Whitehaven and Douglas. The postage of each single letter was, at first, two-pence; but, when the rates of postage were increased throughout Great Britain, this sum was raised to three-pence.

The expenditure of the island being found greater than the revenue, the following additional duties were imposed in 1780:

Rum, 6d. per gallon, making with the former duty	2s.
Tobacco 1d. per lb. ....	2d.
Hemp, iron, deal boards, and timber from foreign parts, 5 per cent. <i>ad valorem</i> , making, with the for- mer duty, 7½ per cent.	

French wine, 4*l.* per tun, making with the former duty 8*l.*

Other wine .. 2*l.* ..... 4*l.*

The duties on tea and coffee were withdrawn, and the following substituted:

Bohea tea *	Qs. 6 <i>d.</i> per lb.
Green tea	1 0
Coffee	0 4

The allowance of British spirits being more than the demand was reduced from 50,000 to 40,000 gallons; and the allowance of rum increased from 30,000 to 40,000 gallons, 30,000 to be imported from England, and 10,000 from Scotland.

The importation of wine, in any vessel of less than seventy tuns burden was prohibited.

No goods, fresh fish excepted, were allowed to be exported from the Isle of Man without a warrant from the custom-house.

In a subsequent year, the quantity of refined sugar to be annually imported was limited to

400 cwt. fully refined.  
10 cwt. bastard lumps.

The whole quantity to be shipped at Liverpool, and landed at Douglas; and no part of it to be, on any account, re-exported.

\* All tea not green.

In 1798 the importation of British spirits was prohibited; but instead of them were allowed,

10,000 gallons brandy, subject to a duty of 3s. per gallon.

10,000 ditto geneva ..... 3s. ditto.

to be shipped from England to Douglas only, in casks containing not less than one hundred gallons.

The annual allowance of tobacco having been reduced from 120,000 lbs. to 40,000 lbs. was increased to 60,000lbs.

All wine was subjected to an additional duty of 8*l.* per tun, making, with the former duties, 16*l.* per tun, for French wine, and 12*l.* for other wine: and was to be landed at Douglas only, in packages containing not less than one hogshead; the annual allowance being seventy tuns.

Hops entitled, on exportation from England, to a drawback of the whole duty, were made subject to the duty of 1*½d.* per lb.

Since this period little, if any, variation in the duties has been made. All goods of limited quantity must be imported under licence. The collector is obliged to give one month's notice of the expiration of licences, and take in, for the space of fourteen days, all petitions for new ones. If such of the petitioners as are inhabi-

tants require goods equal to the quantity limited, they have the preference over foreigners: if they require a greater quantity, the licences are granted in rateable proportions. The petitions for imports from England are transmitted to the commissioners at London; and those for Scotland to the commissioners for Edinburgh; and the quarterly accounts of all such importations are transmitted in the same manner. The counterfeiting of a licence subjects the offender to a fine of 500*l.* and the taking of a fee for one subjects the collector or other officer to a fine of 50*l.* On the licences being granted, the parties are obliged to give bond to import the goods therein mentioned, the penalty not exceeding twice the amount of the duties upon such goods. If the quantities, limited by any act of parliament, be found insufficient for the consumption of the natives, the lords of the treasury may increase the allowance, giving orders to the commissioners accordingly.\*

From the sale of the island to the year 1792, the expenditure of the island was equal to or greater than the revenue.

\* 41 Geo. III. c. 54,



In or about the year 1793, his Majesty appointed five commissioners to inquire into the state of the Isle of Man. These were, John Spranger, Esq. — Grant, Esq. attorney and M. P. — Osgoode, Esq. attorney; — Roe, Esq. commissioner of the customs at London; and — Reid, Esq. commissioner of the customs at Edinburgh, who, on arriving in the island, were joined by a committee of the Keys. Their report, printed at a future period for the use of both houses of parliament, throws considerable light upon the subject. It gives the following statement of the amount of custom-dues for the year 1790:

Collected at Douglas port .....	£. 2798	0	10½
Derby Haven .....	104	9	5½
Peel .....	31	19	2½
Ramsey .....	86	19	4½
	<hr/>		
	3016	8	11

This account does not include harbour dues, amounting to about 300*l.* per annum, and the herring custom, about 100*l.* per annum, appropriated to the repairs of the harbours; nor does it include the rent of the salmon fisheries, 22*l.* per annum, nor the revenue of the post-office, amounting to the nett sum of between 200*l.* and 300*l.* The expenditure of the same year, exclusive of the harbours, was 3272*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

The commissioners pointed out many defects in the system of collecting, and thought a radical change absolutely necessary.

The Duke of Athol asserted in the allegations, submitted to the House of Commons in the year 1790, that, for the 70,000*l.* received, he had given up an income of 8000*l.* per annum.\* The statement just given is sufficient to shew that it was derived almost, if not quite, exclusively from a trifling duty on the smuggling trade. All other branches of trade were, at this time, greatly increased; the duties were heavier; and still the custom-house revenue was exceeded by the expenditure. A duty equal to only 2½ or 3 per cent. *ad valorem*, upon the imports, would be sufficient to raise the alleged sum.

From better management and higher duties, the revenue was so greatly increased that, according to Mr. Pitt's statement in the House of Commons in 1805, it amounted to the gross sum of 12,000*l.* per annum, upon the average of the last few years; and according to Sir W. Burroughs to 16,000*l.* for the year 1804. At this

\* This sum must include, not only what he received, but also what he judged himself to be defrauded of.

time a further compensation of one-fourth of the gross revenues of the island was made to the Duke of Athol and his heirs for ever. This subject will be fully spoken of at the end of the present Book.

## CHAPTER III.

*On the Rights and Liberty of the Person.*

**T**HE Isle of Man is rendered extremely interesting by being a little dependency on Great Britain, retaining its own laws and customs; the more so, now England, Scotland, and Ireland are blended into one government; still preserving its freedom from all internal taxation, while the surrounding nations are almost overwhelmed. Lord Chief-justice Coke observes, that, although this island is no parcel of the realm of England, yet it is part of the dominions of the King, and therefore allegiance is reserved in public oaths; and that its laws are such as are scarce to be found anywhere else.

The isle is divided into two districts, each having a Deemster or chief-justice; into six sheadings or counties, with their respective coroners or sheriffs; and into seventeen parishes.

The subjects under consideration I shall endeavour to arrange as succinctly as possible in

the following order ; the rights and liberty of the person ; property in general ; private wrongs, and their redress ; public wrongs, and their punishment.

The Isle of Man cannot boast of any Magna Charta, any Bill of Rights, any Habeas-Corpus act, or any written promise of the sovereign relative to the liberty of the subject.

The infringement of liberty gives rise to laws respecting it. When the government of a country continues long, with little variation, and is not intolerably bad, the people are usually content. The arbitrary acts of John and his predecessors, and the people's wish for their old Saxon government, gave rise to the rebellion of the Barons, the English Magna Charta.

We hear of few vexatious arrests made by the Manks government, and of these few is that of Bishop Wilson. The Lord's officer might imprison any one for a debt due to the Lord ; but the causes sufficient for arresting a person were not defined in any act previously to the year 1736, when the Governor or any of the officers was prohibited from arresting a man, except for flagrant breaches of the peace, open riots or

disturbances, or other notorious misdemeanors, unless evidence on oath was given, relating the complaint or a sufficient cause of suspicion.

It is amusing and instructive to observe the arbitrary and most tyrannical laws made against the lower orders of the people, and to mark their consequences. All persons, having no regular occupation, or not being in a farm, were liable to be taken for servants, and have only such wages as the law allowed. A ploughman was entitled to 13s. 4d. a year, besides meat and drink; a driver to 10s. and a horseman to 8s.: a mason, carpenter, or shipwright, to 4d. a day, and other workmen in proportion. Employers giving more were liable to forfeit to the Lord a sum equal to the whole wages.\* The Lord and his officers had the first choice of servants, and might, at the beginning of a half year, even take them away from any of the inhabitants, except the twenty-four Keys.

Children not brought up, or put apprentice, to any trade, were liable to be ordered into service, unless the parent was old or decrepid, and required assistance. In this case, one child might be kept at home, but the parents were

\* Statute, 1609.

obliged to give public notice of their intention, in order that no "deemster, moare, coroner, or farmer might expect such choice child, and be disappointed."\*

In 1691, the laws were rendered still more severe, and servants refusing to work on the legal terms were to be imprisoned till they consented. In order to encourage foreign artificers, the laws were made relative to Manks work-people only.

The children of the poorer class being thus, by various unjust laws, reduced to a situation much worse than that of their neighbours, were induced by their own choice, and that of their parents, to leave the island : and so frequent was their emigration, that the legislature judged it necessary to interfere once more respecting them. Thus, does it often happen, that one unjust proceeding necessarily brings on another. We learn, by the act of Tinwald, that all the industrious people and the good servants had gone abroad for the sake of higher wages, and that none were left but the drunken, the idle, and the dissolute, who were rather a clog upon the community than any advantage to it. " By

\* Statute, 1662.

the practice of such emigration was expected inevitably to ensue the utter decay, not only of husbandry and tillage, but also of all kind of trade, being thus drained of its useful strength and substance."\* It was therefore enacted, that all natives, who had ever done any work for money, clothes, food, or other consideration, should not be permitted to leave the island till they had attained the age of twenty-five years; and had either been seven years in service, or had served an apprenticeship of five years; the Governor, nevertheless, being authorized to grant his licence or pass to any one, on a special cause, by him deemed sufficient.

This was the last of the vain attempts of Government to overturn the natural course of things; for the purpose of the next act upon the subject, passed in the year 1777, was to repeal all former laws respecting servants and their wages, at length found worse than useless, and at that time nearly obsolete. The same act sets aside several old laws and feudal customs.

A house-servant is supposed to be hired for half a year, when no special agreement is made between the employer and the employed. The

\* Statute, 1691.



contract is mutual ; either party may be punished for breaking it ; the master by the payment of damages, the servant by imprisonment.

Between an apprentice and his master the contract is also mutual.

The laws were nearly silent respecting marriages till the year 1757. Persons of any age might intermarry, without either licence or the publication of banns. Even the prohibited degree of affinity was never settled by an act of Tinwald ; and to the present time no other legal disabilities exist. The marriage ceremony is according to the Protestant church, and several of the regulations observed in England were, at this time, adopted here. No person can be married till he has received the sacrament, except by special leave of the ordinary ; \* nor any one, except a widow or widower, under twenty-one years of age, without the consent of the father or guardian, or in default of these, of the mother, except by the publication of banns for three successive Sundays, which, if not objected to, implies their consent. If the father is dead, and the minor is unable to procure the consent of his guardian or mother to the pro-

\* Statute, 1703.

posed marriage, he may petition the Governor for leave: and if the Governor deems the objection of the guardian or mother insufficient, he may grant leave accordingly.

Aliens may not marry till they have resided three months on the island.

When banns have not been published, a licence from the Bishop or his deputy is always necessary: the solemnization must be by a minister; and at the parish church of one of the parties, unless the Bishop grant a special licence, under his own hand and seal, to marry elsewhere. The cost of a licence is a British crown; of a special licence forty shillings. These sums being moderate, banns are not very frequent. A residence of three days renders the party a parishioner.

On the subject of divorces we find nothing in the statutes.

Man and wife, *baron* and *feme*, are not so completely united into one person by the Manks, as by the English law. All property, except landed estates of inheritance, they possess in common, with this difference, that the husband may bequeath his share of the property to whom he will; the wife, if she makes a will at all,

may leave the property only to her children by the present husband. If she has none, she cannot make a will. On the death of the husband, the widow enters upon her share of the property: on the death of the wife, not having made a will, the husband enters upon the whole. Previously to 1777, the testament of the wife was not restricted to her husband and children; but she might leave her moiety of property to whom-ever she pleased, which practice, as the act asserts, frequently occasioned the utter ruin of the widower. A difference formerly prevailed between the southern and northern districts, respecting the wife's or widow's right; but it does not exist at present. In cases of treason or felony, only the criminal's share becomes forfeited.

A father is obliged to maintain his children till they attain the age of fourteen years. At this period terminates all legal obligation between them. A child at this age may demand any legacy and depart; but, if he is entitled to any inheritance from the mother, and, nevertheless, remains at home, the father is entitled to the interest or use of the money as a compensation for his maintenance. Children, entering upon

their property, of whatever sort it is, are not permitted to dispose of any part of it till they are twenty-one years old, except in cases of absolute necessity, approved of by the Governor. A child is not considered to be disinherited, unless the legacy of sixpence be left to him.\*

I have been speaking of legitimate children only: others cannot inherit; but the intermarriage of the father and mother, within three years of the birth of a natural child, will render that child legitimate.

A father may appoint a guardian. If he neglects to do so, and leaves a widow and one child, the father's kindred have the custody of the child till it is fourteen years old. If there are two children left, the mother takes care of the eldest, and may, by will, appoint a guardian: the second child is to be taken care of as an only one would be. A guardian must not, except in cases of extremity, let the lands of a minor for a longer term than his minority.†

There are no bodies corporate in the Isle of Man, except those which are necessarily so in virtue of the office, and are sole corporations:

\* Statute-book, Anno 1525, 1577, 1704.

† Statute-book, Anno 1586.

as, the bishops, parsons, vicars, churchwardens, and some others. They are rendered so by holding, in perpetuity, a trust inseparable from the office.

Very few differences between natives and aliens exist. One we mentioned in the last chapter; the others will be spoken of as occasion offers. Formerly there was a great prejudice against the Scotch, and all of that nation were obliged to leave the island, by the first vessel that sailed, on the forfeiture of goods and liberty. A foreigner might not, without special leave, proceed further into the country than the nearest parish church.

## CHAPTER IV.

*On Property.*

**P**ROPERTY seems to be divided naturally into things real or landed estates, and things personal, or whatever does not come within the first division.

All the lands of Man belonged formerly to the Lord. Even so lately as the sixteenth century no person could sell, or in any manner alienate his land, by whatever title acquired, without a licence, either from the Lord, or from three of his principal Officers. The occupiers of the soil were termed the Lord's tenants, and all were subject to the payment of a fine or rental.

James, Earl of Derby, endeavoured, in the year 1643, to make all the tenures leasehold, either for three lives, or twenty-one years ; and appointed four commissioners to compound with the holders, and make agreements, in the best manner they could. His conduct gave rise to a warm contest between the sovereign and the landholders, which terminated in 1703, the former

agreeing for himself and successors to give up all title to the land, so long as the latter paid him the fines and rentals, agreed between them individually and the Earl's commissioners, in and after the year 1643. The Lord's dues were thus made incontrovertibly fixed, however much the land might at any future time be improved, and the value of it increased. The term of a lease must not exceed twenty-one years ; and a mortgage, if not redeemed within five years, renders the parties liable to the fine of alienation.

In 1777 an act was passed, confirming this act of settlement, the preamble of which breathed an air of greater freedom than had till then prevailed.

Estates became, on the death of the owner, the property of the eldest son ; or, if there was no son, of the eldest daughter : and herein did the law of Man differ from that of other feudal nations. The courage of the female inhabitants, to whom a signal victory was once attributed, was perhaps the foundation of this custom, extant at the present time for estates remaining entailed, and for those of persons dying intestate.

Estates of inheritance might be sold by special leave of three of the Lord's principal officers.

Such as were sold once were afterwards considered resaleable on the payment of a fine ; and thus was the number of entailed estates constantly diminishing. In this manner began and continued the system of purchase, and consequently of devise. What a man could alienate in his life time, he could devise at his death. If he died intestate, the purchased lands which he possessed descended as estates of inheritance, but the heir was obliged to pay the value of the lands to the executors of the deceased, to be divided as a personal estate. But at present no distinction is made between estates of inheritance and of purchase, except so far as concerns the wife's or widow's right ; the whole, with this exception, falling, without any compensation to be made in return, to the heir at law.

The isle was divided into six hundred portions, called quarterlands ; but according to Feltham the present number is seven hundred and fifty-nine ; all other estates appear to be allotments out of, or encroachments upon, these.

In the possession of land, no distinction is made between natives and aliens.

A title to land may be acquired by the sentence of a court of law, or by occupancy, as



well as by descent, devise, or purchase. The first, being founded upon some pre-existing right, I shall pass over, and speak only of occupancy.

If a person had unmolested possession of land for ten years, after the true proprietor had a title to it, and who was not of the age of twenty-one years, *non compos mentis*, imprisoned, or beyond seas, it became the absolute property of the occupier : but, if such incapacities existed in the proprietor, he maintained his title for five years after they were removed. The first period has been since extended from ten to twenty-one years, and the last reduced from five to two.

Every landholder has a right, by prescription, or immemorial custom, of feeding his sheep or cattle upon the commons, their number being in proportion to the quantity of land which he holds. Every inhabitant possesses the same right of quarrying stone for his own use ; and also, on the annual payment of one halfpenny to the Lord, a sum not now demanded, of digging peat upon the mountains.\*

\* Statute-book, Anno 1583, 1637, 1643, 1645, 1647, 1662, 1703.

In cases of treason or felony, estates, real as well as personal, are forfeited to the Lord.\*

A title to things personal may be acquired by prerogative, by forfeiture, by descent, by devise, by purchase, by action at law, by occupancy, by marriage, by custom, by gift, by exchange, by distreint for rent, or by execution, subsequent to the judgment of a court. A few of these heads require some explanation.

All wrecks not claimed within a year and a day, and all mines, are the Lord's, by his prerogative. Forfeitures of felons' goods were made to the Lord, except goats to the Queen, and certain perquisites or fees to the Coroner and Deemster, never to the Bishop, or other Barons, even when they held their own courts.† The right of treasure-trove has been transferred from the Lord-Proprietor to the King of England, but no case relative to felons' goods has occurred since the revestment. Appeal bonds, hereafter to be mentioned, are payable to the King, as are all legal fines. Game belonged to the Lord by his prerogative. The killing of a hawk, heron, hart, or

\* Statute-book, 1665.

† Statute-book, Anno 1577; "The old customary Laws of the Isle of Man put in writing."

hind, without his licence, subjects the party to a penalty of 3*l.*; one half to the Lord, and one half to the informer : the shooting of a pigeon, partridge, or grouse, to a penalty of 1*l.* Thus a pigeon is accounted game ; but a hare is not so. A licence for a year may generally be obtained by application to the proper officer, and the payment of the fee of half-a-crown. The former penalties were 7*l.* to the Lord for every animal accounted game, that was killed ; for every tame deer, killed or taken, 10*l.* besides a discretionary imprisonment ; for every hawk or heron, 3*l.* ; and for their eggs, 3*l.* each. The game laws are now nearly obsolete.

A widow becomes entitled, on the death of her husband, to half the real and personal estate, entails excepted, possessed by them, whether he has made a will or not.\* If he dies intestate, the children, or their representatives, inherit the other half in equal portions ; and if there are no children, or their representatives, the next of kindred, in equal degree, representatives among collaterals, after brothers and sisters. If there is no widow, children being excluded, the whole is

\* Statute-book, 1777.

divided as the half would otherwise be. A will should be proved within three months of the death of the party; and the legacies are to be paid, or the estate divided, within fourteen days of the probaton of the will, or the granting of letters of administration. For some cause, apparently very adverse to the public good, the executors are not obliged, by law, to pay the debts of the deceased, before the expiration of three years from the time of his death.

All civil actions, except on accounts current, must be brought within three years of the cause of action, unless the Plaintiff is a minor, *non compos mentis*, beyond seas, or has any other legal imperfection. In these cases it must be brought within three years of the removal of the imperfection. Thus a title by occupancy is sometimes obtained.\*

If a tenant quits the farm on the May half year day he is entitled to the standing crops.

Marriage is a sort of partnership, and does not afford an exclusive title to estates, either real or personal.

Right by custom is now nearly obsolete, except that of some clerical fees. Certain articles

\* Anno 1738,

were formerly heir-looms ; but in the year 1747, it was enacted that a man's firelock should be the only one so taken.

The goods which are taken in distress or execution, must remain one month as a pawn, redeemable by the tenant or defendant, on payment of the rent, or of money recovered in an action at law. If not redeemed, they are to be sold by public auction. Should goods be fraudulently removed, the landlord may, within a fortnight of his rent's becoming due, seize them wherever they are to be found ; and no sale, assignment, or other agreement, can set aside the landlord's just claim, in the first instance, to one year's rent. Whatever relates to a distress, or execution, is the business of the Coroner ; and he is entitled to one shilling in the pound for his trouble, chargeable on the tenant or defendant.

If the sentence of a court of law is not in due time attended to, or an appeal made, execution against the defendant's goods is granted as a matter of course.

## CHAPTER V.

*On private Wrongs, and their Redress.*

**T**HE distinction between private and public wrongs is thus defined by Blackstone: private wrongs, or civil injuries are an infringement or privation of the civil rights which belong to individuals, considered merely as individuals: public wrongs are a breach and violation of the public rights or duties due to the whole community in its social, aggregate capacity. The difference between them, though founded, perhaps, upon the law of nature, is generally the consequence of positive law. Wrongs, the redress of which is intended as a compensation to the individual injured, I term, private: and those for which the criminal is more severely punished, chiefly as an example to others, and with little or no benefit to the injured man, I term, public.

Any person cutting his neighbour's grass or corn, breaking fences, or putting cattle into his fields at night for pasture, might formerly be fined and punished at the discretion of the

Governor or Deemster. The party aggrieved might also recover damages at the court of common law; and the evidence taken before the Governor or Deemster was to be sufficient for the jury. But this method was abolished in 1665: a complaint of trespass is to be made to the Coroner or other proper officer, who must, without delay, nominate, charge, and swear four honest neighbours, to view the trespass and estimate the damage. Upon their verdict being given, which is to be four times the actual damage, the defendant is to pay the amount to the plaintiff. If he refuses payment, the Deemster, on application made to him, will immediately issue an order to the Coroner, to take a sufficient quantity of his goods in execution.

The trespass jury is, properly speaking, composed of four arbitrators, who, if they cannot agree, sometimes choose a fifth person, or umpire, and herein they differ from other Manks juries, who are obliged to give an unanimous verdict.

Dogs worrying sheep or lambs, the fact being proved before the Deemster, are to be hanged; and the owner is to pay certain damages to the injured party.

If the boundary or fence between two estates be in a ruinous or insufficient condition, both parties must contribute equally to its repair. If either refuse, the Deemster, on application made to him, will appoint a jury of four judicious men of the sheading to examine the boundary, and to report an estimate of the expense of such repair as would keep the fence in a proper state for the term of ten years. The moiety of such estimate having been awarded by the Deemster against the defendant, the plaintiff is obliged, with all convenient speed, to erect a stone wall, at least two feet four inches broad at the foundation, sixteen inches broad at top, and five feet high, covered with coping or projecting stones.

Persons, having been found guilty of slander in the temporal or spiritual courts, are subject also to actions for damages at the court of common law.\*

Nuisances, encroachments, filth, or rubbish, in any town, are to be removed by the offender, by order of its respective High-bailiff. If the party neglects to do so, he is to be fined ten shillings for every offence; and if the High-bailiff neglects to present him before the Governor or

\* Statute-book, 1736.



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Deemster, himself may be presented by any one, and be fined in the same sum, one half to the informer; the other half, in this case, and the whole penalty in the former case, being appropriated to the improvement of the market-place.\* Pigs going at large in the streets subject the owner to a penalty of an English shilling each.

A woman, convicted of adultery in the ecclesiastical court, loses her wife's or widow's right, and is entitled to only such alimony or property, as the court thinks proper to allow. Neither of the parties is liable to any other punishment, except church censures.

A person may recover damages for false imprisonment, vexatious or frivolous arrests. The action was formerly brought in the court of chancery: the amount of damages was referred to a jury; but the Chancellor might mitigate it if he thought it extravagant. An act of 1777 takes the matter out of the Chancellor's jurisdiction, and directs such suits to be brought before the court of common law, and finally determined by a jury. Damages for vexatious or frivolous arrests, made by the authority of the Water-

\* Statutes, 1776 and 1777.

Bailiff, usually, but improperly, called detention for a tide's water, are recoverable in the Court of Admiralty.

I proceed now to mention the courts of law for the redress of civil injuries. The courts of the High-bailiff, of the Deemster, and of the Governor, are somewhat similar to the only method of trial known to the civil law. Here the Judge is left to form the sentence in his own breast, upon the credit of the witnesses examined. In other courts the causes are determined by a jury. Trial by jury was common at a very early period, among all the northern nations; so much so, that there are scarcely any records extant on the constitution of those countries that do not mention this tribunal. It was ever justly esteemed a privilege, or rather law, of the most beneficial nature.\*

A High-bailiff resides at each of the four towns, and holds his court there once in every week. In the island are seventeen parishes, of which, Loman, Oncan, Braddon, and Marown, are under the jurisdiction of the Bailiff of Douglas: Malew, Santon, Arbory, and Rushen, of the Bailiff of Castletown: Patrick, German, Michael,

\* Blackstone.

and Ballaugh, of the Bailiff of Peel; and Jurby, Andreas, Bride, Lezaire, and Maughold, of the Bailiff of Ramsey. This court was instituted so lately as the year 1777.

- The High-bailiff is the only judge who takes cognizance of complaints and debts under the value of forty shillings. He usually determines them at the first hearing, in the presence of the parties, who are summoned by his warrant. An appeal or traverse from his decision may, within seven days, be made to the Deemster, the appellant entering into a bond of three pounds, payable to the King, to prosecute the appeal with effect within one month. All appeal bonds, from whatever court, have the same penalty annexed. If the Deemster confirms the former decision, the appellant is obliged to pay the costs of the application, and also the value of the bond, unless mitigated by the court, as it sometimes is, even to ten or five shillings.

There are two Deemsters in the island, one of whom is judge, or chief justice of the southern division, and usually holds his court at Castle-town; the other, of the northern division, and usually holds his court at Ramsey. They are not obliged, by law, to sit in these places; but

each may hold his court wherever he may deem most convenient, within his own district. According to Chaloner, he might decide a cause, even walking or riding upon the highway, provided the parties were in his presence. On entering upon the functions of his office he takes the following oath: "By this book, and by the holy contents thereof, and by the wonderful works that God hath miraculously wrought in heaven above, and in the earth beneath, in six days and seven nights, I, A. B. do swear that I will, without respect of favour or friendship, love or gain, consanguinity or affinity, envy or malice, execute the laws of this isle justly, betwixt our Sovereign Lord, the King, and his subjects within this isle, and betwixt party and party, as indifferently as the herring's back bone doth lie in the midst of the fish." The summons of appearance to any party concerned was formerly, and even till the year 1763, nothing more than his name or its initial, marked by the Deemster upon a piece of blue stone or slate. This, with two-pence, was given to the sumner, whose duty it was to shew it to the party, to tell him who was the plaintiff, and let him know the

requisite time of appearance. It is now in writing upon paper, and costs sixpence.

The Deemster has an extensive jurisdiction, being competent to decide all causes exceeding the value of forty shillings, not being actions where damages are to be assessed, or such as come properly before the Chancellor ; all such as respect defamation, slander, or simple breach of peace ; and all appeals from the judgment of the High-bailiff. The cause is usually determined at the first hearing ; and an appeal from his decision may be made to the Court of Common Law or of Chancery, as the case may require ; the action having originated here or in the High-bailiff's Court making no difference in this respect.

Decorum between the parties is not always so much adhered to as it ought to be. They and their witnesses are examined upon oath by the Deemster, as he may want information on the subject ; and I have heard each give the lye to his antagonist without any ceremony, proceed to pretty high words, and sometimes, as if in defiance, make grimaces. The business of Attorney and of Counsellor are here vested in the same

person, and he is not always perfectly free from a spirit of this description. The trial is in the Manks or English language, and sometimes a mixture of both.

The costs of the action include a very trifling allowance for the travelling expenses of the party and his witnesses.\*

A Court of Common Law is held at Castletown and at Ramsey four times in the year, the term commencing one week later at the latter than at the former place.

The Coroner opens the court with this proclamation : " I do fence this court that no manner of person do quarrel or brawl, nor molest the audience, and that they do answer when

\* " Witnesses shall have charges allowed them, save in the Lord's causes, in manner following : a gentleman or gentlewoman, who shall be charged as a witness before any court, magistrate, or minister of justice, shall, upon his or her appearance, be allowed sixpence for every parish through which he or she shall be obliged to travel, so that the same do not exceed two shillings and sixpence in the whole. Every tradesman or tradeswoman shall be allowed, for loss of time, eightpence, besides twopence for every parish he or she shall be obliged to go through, so that the whole does not exceed one shilling and sixpence. A labouring man shall be allowed fourpence for loss of time, and a penny for each parish : a labouring woman shall be allowed twopence for each parish."

Statute-book, 1753.

they are called, by licence of the King and this court. I draw witness to the whole audience that the court is fenced." The Governor may preside by the Deemster.

The business of this court consists chiefly in trying civil actions, where damages are to be awarded, and in hearing appeals from the decision of the Deemster. Every defendant is to be summoned three days, at least, before the court day, and have delivered to him the particulars of the cause, and the account against him : but if he is off the island, the summons must be given to the tenant in possession. The compliance of the plaintiff with this practice is to be verified by the oath of two witnesses. The defendant, if upon the island, must enter his appearance and proceed to his defence, so that the cause may be tried at the second term : if absent from the island, at the fourth term. The court may, in special cases, appoint the trial of a cause between the terms, and has the power of granting a longer time than usual either to the plaintiff or defendant.

If the plaintiff, after the answering of the defendant, fails to prosecute his action, he is cast in his own plea, and obliged to pay the usual

fine, with costs of suit; unless sickness or other lawful cause has retarded the proceedings; in which case the court grants further time, or, if already cast, a recommencement of the action at the next term, but at no time afterwards.

The causes are determined by a jury, the mode of impannelling which is this: The court, at least six days before its sitting, issues orders to the several Coroners to summon two or more good and lawful men out of each parish, giving them at least three days notice of their requisite attendance. At the sitting of the court, each Coroner makes a return, in writing, of the names of the persons summoned, with their addition and place of abode, which are copied by an officer of the court, on distinct pieces of paper, of equal sizes, and by him given publicly to the presiding Judge or Magistrate, who causes them, in his presence, to be rolled up and put into a box. When any cause is called upon to be tried, some indifferent person, in open court, draws out six of the papers; and if any person whose name is drawn should not appear, or should be challenged by a party, and disproved by the court, a further number is drawn



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to complete the jury. The six persons drawn, approved of, and sworn, have their names written upon a pannel, and are kept apart in a box during the trial. If a cause is brought on before the preceding one is determined, the first jury withdraw to an inner room, and the second is impannelled from the remaining names. If either party desire to have a special jury, a special jury is to be returned, impannelled, and sworn, in such fair, open, and impartial manner as the court may direct. No jury, nor any member of it, is at liberty to depart till their verdict be delivered, in writing, into court.

If any person summoned on a jury, or any witness duly summoned, do not attend, and the trial be on that account postponed, he becomes liable to all the costs of the action.

From the decision of this court, an appeal, to be prosecuted within six months, may in all cases be made to the House of Keys.\*

In the Court of Admiralty, causes are determined by a jury of six, usually merchants. This court is mentioned only once in the Statute-book, and there it is directed, that all actions for da-

\* Statute-book, 1747.

mages, respecting false arrests made by the Water-bailiff's authority, shall be determined by an Admiralty jury.\*

Disputes relating to the rights of the crown, the imposing of fines, and the determining of the rights of tithes, are cognizable in the Court of Exchequer. It is held the day after every Chancery Court, or immediately after it on the same day.

The Court of Chancery is one of law and of equity. It takes cognizance of frauds respecting titles to estates real, when bond to prove their existence has been given, but not otherwise; of disputes concerning mortgages; of actions personal, where accounts are unliquidated; of the estates of persons insolvent or absconded, and disputes respecting them; of all civil causes of arrest, except at the suit of the crown; and of extravagant costs, awarded by inferior courts. There is not any well defined line between these causes which ought to be brought before the Deemster, and those which ought to be brought before the Governor. The court is held at Castletown on the first Thursday in every month,

harvest time excepted: but should the day be distant, and either party request an earlier hearing, it is usual for the Governor to appoint a special court-day.

The first step in chancery proceedings is to write a petition to the Governor, desiring him to summon the defendant to answer the complaint. The plaintiff, by himself or counsel, opens the cause, and proves it by witnesses, which the defendant may cross-examine. Then the defendant makes out his case by witnesses, again examined by the plaintiff. The evidence of the parties themselves is not admitted. It is not usual, in any of the courts, except in special cases, to make, at the time, any minutes of the evidence, though the action and determination are recorded. The defendant having made his appearance by himself or attorney, the Chancellor may, at his pleasure, either decide the cause at once, or postpone it to a future sitting: But, if the defendant disobey the summons, the decree cannot be made till the fourth court.

The Governor is authorised to make, from time to time, whatever rules and orders he

may think proper, in his own practice and proceedings.

From his decision, or from that of the House of Keys, an appeal may be made to the King of England in council, in any cause not lower in value than five pounds; and his decision is absolutely final.

No action of arrest can be granted against a landed man, or native of the isle, to imprison or hold him to bail, to appear at any court, on account of a civil action, unless he has obtained the Governor's pass, or there is some just cause to believe that he designs to go off the island;\* debts due, or supposed to be due, to the crown, being exceptions to this rule.† Any person prosecuted for a foreign debt, by an action of arrest, can be held to bail, only for his personal appearance, and for the forth-coming of what goods he has upon the island; his clothes and money continuing his own. Hence it is, that strangers who, from misfortune or fraudulent design, have left their creditors, and brought with them the remainder of their property, find

\* Statute-book, 1736.

† Act of Parliament 5 Geo. III. cap. 39; Act of Tinwald, 1777; and Act of Parliament 50 Geo. III. cap. 42.

a safe asylum here. This place, indeed, is more privileged than may be, at first, imagined: for, not only is the money of the idle class secure, but also the property of the industrious, provided they take the precaution of carrying on business, in the name of some other person, their friend, who, whether in partnership or not, must nominally be possessed of all the effects, except the money. Persons of this description also buying houses or land usually make the purchase in the name of a relative or friend, and thereby possess the property without molestation. The debtor may be informed that a bankruptcy at home will annihilate all such speculations.

A creditor, or his agent, in order to procure an arrest, must produce his speciality, if he has any; if not, he must make an affidavit before the clerk of the rolls, or other person duly authorised, wherein is to be specified the amount of the debt, and in what manner it was contracted. If a debtor is about to leave the island without settling an account, the water-bailiff may, upon affidavit of the creditor, grant his authority to take him into custody, to detain him for the space of twenty-four hours, but not

longer; this time being amply sufficient for procuring a regular arrest.

The Ecclesiastical Court takes cognizance of adultery, fornication, swearing, and cursing, probates of wills, granting letters of administration and tuition, of children's goods, subtracting of tithes, defamations, drunkenness: and no appeal can, in these cases, be made from its decision. The causes, when important, are determined by juries impannelled by the Vicars-general. The Arch-deacon has alternate jurisdiction with the Bishop in inferior causes; and holds his court in person, or by his official, as the Bishop does by the Vicars-general.

The ancient manner of proving a debt due from the deceased was this: The creditor took a witness with him to the church-yard, and, upon the grave of the deceased, swore to the debt. This practice was abolished in 1609, and the matter referred to the spiritual-court, if within a twelvemonth and a day of the probate; if beyond this period, the temporal court.

The ecclesiastical judges possessed great power over the person of the subject, till the year 1737, at which time it was much diminished. They could no longer imprison, except for a short

time, in certain cases ; and the fines and imprisonments for contempt of court were no longer discretionary.

Townley mentions a curious presentment delivered in at the Bishop's Court, held at Kirk-Christ Lezayre, during his residence at Douglas : " The devil take Billy Wattleworth for having such bad ale." The offence being proved, the offender was subjected to a fine.

The language of the ecclesiastical decrees is a most curious jumble of Latin and English, of which the following are instances :

" K. Marown church, Nov. 1, 1789, John Bridson, curate. Presentments. The Curate and wardens present Margaret Clark, alias Fayle, for fornication ; (a child born at K. Patrick, 24th October.) This woman has deposed, on the Holy Evangelists, that William Kelly, of the said parish, is the father of the said child ; which he acknowledged before me, Evan Christian. The said Mary Clark is therefore censured *7 dies in carcere* ; and to enter into bonds of *3l. in usum Domini Regis* ; to undergo penance *3 dies, plena ecclesia*, in penitential habit, and not *iterum fornicari* ; and the said William Kelly for being an adulterer, is cen-

ured 14 *dies*, in *carcere*, and to enter into bonds of 10*l.* in *usum Domini Regis*; to undergo penance 7 *dies* in *diversis ecclesiis*, et non iterum *mœchari*.

EVAN CHRISTIAN, Vicar-general.

Item. The wardens present William Kelly, for not living with his own wife, and for living with the above named Margaret Clark, alias Fayle. The said William Kelly and Margaret Clark are hereby ordered to be committed alternately to prison; there to remain until they enter into bonds of 10*l.* in *usum Domini Regis*, not to cohabit or associate together in future, except at church and market; and before releasement to pay all fees.

“The wardens present Christian Guliam for fornication; a child born: common fame. This woman having alledged that she has a husband, who is father to the said child, her censure is suspended.

“JOHN MOORE,

“EV. CHRISTIAN.

“Examined by J. CULLEN, Epis. Regr.

“To the Sumner to execute.”

Townley, who copied, and from whose journal I copy these presentments, offers a query to the reader: whether it is not dangerous, in this



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island, for a man to go to bed with his own wife, without leave first obtained from the spiritual court.

"St. Anne's presentments, 8th Nov. 1789, Charles Cubbin, vicar. The church-wardens present Thomas Harman for swearing by his conscience, and making use of the word 'devil' in his common talk. They present Thomas Caine for not attending divine service on the Sabbath-day, and for cursing Elizabeth Callister in these words, 'plague on thee.' They also present Elizabeth Callister for cursing Thomas Caine in the same words that he cursed her, 'plague on thee.'"

"We fine Thomas Harman, Thomas Caine, and Elizabeth Callister 2s. 6d. each, for non-appearance and contempt of court, and they are to be admonished by the pastor for the said offences.

"JOHN MOORE,

"EVAN CHRISTIAN.

"Examined by J. CAELIN, Epis. Regr.

"To the Vicar of St. Anne's, these to publish *plena Ecclesia.*"

The courts, now enumerated, were not formerly courts of record. The laws were locked

up in the breasts of the Governor and Deemsters, conveyed by oral tradition from one generation to another, and known to the people only by the sentence which they decreed. This practice was followed by the more eligible plan of keeping precedents as guides to future determinations. Even then, they were kept by three locks, their respective keys in the possession of the three chief officers of state, from the scrutinizing eye of the vulgar; nor were they, till the fifteenth century, generally known to the body of the people.

No person can act as an attorney, or plead in any other than his own cause, till he has received a licence from the Governor, and has publicly taken the government oaths, and also the one following: "I, A. B. do swear, that I will truly and honestly demean myself in the practice and knowledge of an attorney, to the best of my ability." It is not usual for the Governor to grant his licence to any but a native, nor even to him till he has served an apprenticeship of five years to the clerk of the rolls.

I cannot, in any manner, give the reader a better idea of the expense of litigation, than by furnishing a few examples of the fees allowed by the courts of law in taxing costs.

Fourteen pence is the cost of a summons to the Court of Chancery; sixpence to the Deemster's court; and three-pence is the value of a grant of execution. The entering of an action, or of an appeal, to be determined in chancery, costs sixpence for one side of half a sheet of paper, and one halfpenny for every twenty-four words afterwards: the copy of a decree, the same.... For the probate of a will one shilling and two-pence is charged: for a grant of administration three shillings and four-pence. An attorney charges 2s. 11d. for a retainer; 3s. 4d. for receiving instructions; 3s. 6d. per sheet for a bill in chancery, written, the last sheet excepted, on all sides; for filing, and receiving a copy of it, 1s. 9d.; for drawing a petition, 2s. 11d. per sheet; for a motion in court, 2s. 11d.; for drafting an answer for the defendant, 2s. 11d.; for preparing and producing a brief, 3s. 4d. per sheet; for arguing a cause, or attending to examine evidence before the Chancellor, 5s. 10d.; before the Deemster, 2s. 11d.; for attending any court upon business, 12s. 3d. per day, besides professional fees; for travelling expences, 1s. 2d. per mile.

## CHAPTER VI.

*On Public Wrongs, and their Punishment.*

**I** HAVE already observed that capital crimes are very rare in Man. The laws respecting them are consequently few and short. No distinction is made in any of the statutes between principal and accessory, except in this one instance: that the husband, if he concealed his wife's felony, was equally implicated in the guilt.

Of all offences, treason, in its original sense, seems the most injurious to a community. I speak of rebellion, or of any act which may tend to plunge a nation into the horrors of a civil war. Among the laws reduced to writing in 1422, treason is thus defined: rising upon the Lord or his Lieutenant; or striking in his presence any of his waged men, or servants: robbing him in any court, after fence made: murmuring and rising at a Tinwald Court: constraining him to hold a Tinwald Court: relieving or concealing a rebel, knowing him to be one. In 1646 another crime was ranked under this deno-

mination—counterfeiting any current coin of the island, or bringing in, designedly, any false money, and making payment with it. Thus treason was extended to a copper coinage; and not confined, as in England, to that of gold and silver. The offence was unknown till the year in which the act passed. Though the Lord had the prerogative of coining, the money was not considered current till it was declared to be so by an act of Tinwald. When five hundred pounds worth of copper pence and halfpence were introduced in 1733, the former coinage of 1710 was declared to be no longer a legal payment. Such conduct, however proper they, to whom it was explained, might deem it, was likely to occasion unpleasant rumours, if not murmurs; and I have been told that its intrinsic was little more than half its nominal value. By the next copper coinage of 1757, the currency of the preceding one was not affected. In order to detect false coin, every holder of copper money was ordered, under the penalty of twenty shillings, to bring to the Governor on a certain day each year, all that he had in his possession, to be examined; a practice very inefficacious.

No offender can be convicted of any capital

crime except by a jury, at the Court of General-goal delivery : but formerly, as we learn by the laws written in 1422, he might be condemned, without any trial, for an attack upon the Lord or his Lieutenant. At that period it was the custom, in England, to hang rebel-leaders without any form of trial. The punishment of a traitor is, to be drawn with wild horses and hanged ; to have his head cut off and stuck upon the Tower of Castle Rushen ; and to have the body quartered, one quarter to be exposed at each of the four chief towns. His goods become forfeited to the Lord.

*"That which toucheth treason"* is thus defined : striking any one within a court, and within twenty-four paces of the Lord or his Lieutenant ; the punishment for which offence is the forfeiture of life and goods : if beyond this distance, or in the presence of the Lord or his Lieutenant out of court, the offender is punishable at the Lord's pleasure ; and is also liable to have damages awarded against him in a Court of Law, as a satisfaction for the assault.

The law respecting seditious speeches or writings is of so late a date as 1796. Any person, maliciously doing any act, or circulating any written or printed paper or pamphlet,

tending to bring into contempt his Majesty's person or government, is subject, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds British, and to imprisonment not exceeding the term of six months. He may, in the first instance, be arrested by warrant from the Deemster, complaint by affidavit having been made to him.

Against the compounding of felony, a great breach of public justice, there was no law till the year 1736. The punishment of it is, simply, a fine to the Lord, at the discretion of the Court, not exceeding six pounds thirteen shillings and four-pence.

An escape, or an attempt to escape from prison does not subject the party himself to any legal punishment, nor was there till 1736 any law in force to punish such as assisted him. Assisting a criminal to escape from prison subjects the offender to a penalty of twenty pounds: assisting a debtor to escape from prison, or from the island, without a pass, to a penalty of three pounds and the payment of all his debts. Should his effects be insufficient for the purpose, his goods are to be seized and sold; he is to be imprisoned for three months, and publicly whip-

ped at the four towns. Any one conveying another off the island, without a pass, is liable to the payment of his debts, and a fine of ten pounds to the Lord. A pass or licence to leave the island is thus ordered :

“ *Insula Mona.* Permit the bearer hereof, Mr. A. B. to pass for ——— upon his lawful occasion, without let, stop, or hindrance, he behaving himself as behoves all liege people, and departing this isle within one month from the date hereof.

Given at Castle Rushen this ——— day of ———

(Signed.)                      Lieut. Governor.”

An Officer in each of the four towns has blank passes, ready signed, which he immediately fills up, and delivers, on the payment of nine-pence, unless a debt be sworn against the party in order to detain him.

Persons suspected of perjury were to be tried at the spiritual court. I am induced to believe that fine and imprisonment, with church censures, were the only punishment, and not the pillory and loss of ears, as is generally imagined. Here, as in many other places, I cannot but regret that Mr. Stowell, a Manks Solicitor, who published the Manks laws, in alphabetical order;



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should have left every thing in the obscurity he found it, and perjury thus : " Whoever is sworn, and their oaths prove false, shall make satisfaction by our law, and to the church for perjury."

The words in the Statute-book are, " Whoever is sworn, and their oaths prove false, shall make satisfaction by our law, and reserve them to the church for perjury ;" by which may perhaps be understood, that the person injured by the false oath is to have redress in the Temporal Court ; but the punishment, as for a public offence, is to be by the Spiritual Court. A juryman taking a fee, is made, *ipso facto*, guilty of perjury ; being treated with liquor, he is to be fined six shillings and eightpence, and discharged.' A councilman, before he takes his seat, is sworn not to divulge the secrets of the council : should he be convicted of so doing, he is subject to dismissal, and a penalty of three pounds.

The old laws, relative to trade, were sufficient to exclude any prosperity that might otherwise arise from commerce. No article might be imported by any individual ; nor might any commodity be exported without the consent of the Lieutenant Governor and Council. The punishment for infringing upon these rules was

a discretionary fine and imprisonment, besides forfeiture of the goods.\*

Trade of all sorts is open to aliens as well as natives: but formerly a five years' apprenticeship was necessary.

Fresh herrings might not be exported till their price was below 1s. 2d. per hundred; and this law was not repealed till 1796.

A flight of gulls usually hover about a herring shoal, and serve as a guide to the fishermen. For this reason, the shooting of one during the fishing season subjects the offender to a penalty of three pounds.

The practice of tarring nets, being thought prejudicial, was prohibited in 1796. The offender is to be fined ten pounds, one half to be given to the informer, the other added to the high-road fund: the action is to be brought in the Court of Admiralty. The use of all nets, which the master of any boat could prove to

\* "Item, when any person maketh suit to carry or transport any stuff or merchandize out of the isle into any foreign parts, that the captain shall consult with the rest of the Council, what wares may be best spared by the inhabitants; and, with the consent of the Council, to give licence accordingly." Statute-book 1561. See also 1422.

have been tarred previously to the passing of this act was, nevertheless, very properly permitted.

The herring fishermen from various parts of the island having petitioned for some general regulations respecting the casting of nets; it was enacted, in the year 1794, that they should in future be shot from the starboard side of the boat. Offenders are to be fined in a sum not exceeding five pounds, and are to enter into a surety of fifty pounds for their future good behaviour.

In 1711, a severe law passed against the smuggling trade with England, the Legislature expecting that "in consideration thereof, and the poverty of the island, the English Government would grant some encouragement to their trade, agriculture, and manufactories." The act was passed, in compliance with a request of the Commissioners of her Majesty's customs: but the British Parliament, not paying any attention to a petition of the inhabitants of Man for a free trade with Britain, it was repealed two years afterwards, the Manks government apprehending that "by a continuance thereof would soon ensue the misery and decay of this

land, and the inhabitants thereof, under which they could no longer support themselves." The act was therefore suspended till their petition should be granted ; and, consequently, has not been since in force. In 1726, the exportation of salt to Great Britain was prohibited, under, I know not why, the penalty of thirty pounds for every offence. I have already said that trade is now carried on under the regulations of the British Legislature, and have nothing to add upon the subject. One thing I may repeat, that distilleries are forbidden, under the penalty of two hundred pounds for every offence, and of all the implements used in the process.

The first limitation of interest was made in 1649, when 10 per cent per annum was the greatest rate allowed. A contract for a higher rate was only so far invalid as respected the excess. But, fifty years afterwards, at which time interest was reduced to 6 per cent, any contract for a higher sum was not only declared to be usurious and utterly void, but subjected the lender to a forfeiture of treble the amount to the Lord of the Isle ; and thus stands the law at present.

Under the head of cheating, I have only one

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offence to mention, that of selling goods by fraudulent weight or measure. The offender is to be fined 10*s.* for the first offence ; 20*s.* for the second ; 3*l.* for the third ; and 5*l.* for every subsequent one ; or suffer one month's imprisonment. The High-bailiff is required to examine the weights used within his district four times in the year. The parties do not undergo any form of trial : but an execution is levied by the Governor, on a proper representation of the case being made, in writing, by the High-bailiff to the regulator of weights and measures, at Castletown. The fines are to be divided in certain portions among the Officers, required to carry the act into execution.\*

To forestall, is to buy provisions coming to market, either by land or water ; or to make such agreement as to prevent their coming. To regrate, is to buy corn in one fair or market, and to re-sell it either in the same fair or market, or within four miles of it. To ingross is to buy, not being at market, corn, reaped or standing, or any other victuals not having life, for the purpose of re-selling them within the island. The punishment for any of these offences is the

\* Statute-book, 1777.

forfeiture of the goods, or their value, to the Lord.\* Against monopoly no provision appears ever to have been made.

Against public health there is only one legal offence, that of selling unwholesome meat. On being exposed for sale it is to be seized by the proper officer, and either distributed among the poor or burned.

The number of alehouses being very great, and supposed to be injurious to the community, was, 1734, limited to two hundred ; but soon afterwards increased to three hundred, its present number.

A person marrying a couple in any manner contrary to law, if a native, is to be transported for fourteen years to some of his Majesty's plantations in America ; if an alien, is to be put into the pillory for an hour, have his ears cut off, be imprisoned, fined in a sum not exceeding fifty pounds, and banished. Prosecutions for the offence, the offender continuing in the island, must be commenced within three years. This act, passed in 1757, is the first that inflicts the punishment of transportation. Making a false

\* Statute-book, 1637.

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entry, or altering an entry in the parish register with evil intent, is a crime punishable by death.

For bigamy or polygamy there was not in England, until the reign of James the First, any other punishment than ecclesiastical censure, and this is still the case in Man. The second marriage is null, and the children consequently illegitimate.

The punishment for witchcraft was burning to death, as in England, but not by any statute law. I do not know whether it was ever inflicted.\*

I come now to speak of those offences, which in a more peculiar way affect or injure individuals.

For suicide the only punishment is the forfeiture of property.

Of the various species of homicide, none short of murder is rendered criminal. The punishment for this offence is capital, death and the forfeiture of property.

For a rape, the punishment is capital, unless the woman be unmarried. In this case she has

\* Chaloner, page 20.

her choice, either to hang, behead, or marry the offender.\* No instance of a conviction is upon record, and only one traditionary. After the rope was fastened round the neck of the criminal, the injured woman repented of her determination, desired he might be released, and offered him a ring, the symbol of the third condition. He accepted the gift with thanks; but told her that, having been already condemned to one punishment, he thought that sufficient, and would keep the ring for another occasion.

The unnatural crime, which is made capital by statute of 1665 is only that between man and beast, not that between man and man.

Assault, or battery, and provocation, or provoking language, likely to occasion battery, are determinable, without a jury, by the Governor or Deemster.† The punishment for the first offence is two shillings; for the second, thirteen shillings and fourpence, to the Lord, besides imprisonment, at the discretion of the court. This law seems to be made in the spirit of the old proverb, that "prevention is better than cure." For the first offence damages may also be recovered by the injured party.

\* Statute-book, 1577. † Ibid. 1736.



Not only is burglary felonious, but also entering a house without a door, if there be but two sticks across the doorway, or a bundle of gorse reared up there.\* It is remarkable that neither this crime nor that of murder is mentioned in the Statute-book, although one part of it was intended to include the whole common or customary law of Man.

Theft is divided into great and small ; that which is equal to, or exceeds the value of six-pence halfpenny, and that which is under six-pence halfpenny. The first includes necessarily theft of sheep, lamb, goat, kid, swine, or honey taken from bee-hives : the crime is capital.†

\* Chaloner, page 20 and 21.

† Formerly, the punishment of theft was, in certain cases, more lenient. " If the thief be the Lord's born man, or els hath made faith and fealty, and put him in grace, if he be indicted, and no mainour in his hand, or the verdict be given, he ought, by the law of Man, to have his life ; but he must forfeit his goods. And then he shall have his choice of three things : first, he shall choose whether he will rest in prison a year and a day, with sustenance of the prison, viz. he shall have bread, one part meale, and another part chaffe of the same meale, and the third part ashes, and he to drink of the water next to the prison doore : the second is to fore-sweare the King and all his land : or els, for the third, to pay the King three pounds." Statute-book, 1422.

The second offence, called petty larceny, subjects the offender to corporal punishment and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

Forgery was not punishable in England, till the reign of Elizabeth, except at common law. The crime was in no case capital. Commerce and paper credit so much increase the temptation and the opportunity, that a multitude of other statutes have since this period been found necessary, and there is now scarcely an instance wherein fraudulent forgery is not felonious. The Manks laws are still silent upon the subject. Only one, and that a modern instance, has occurred. I have remarked the abundance of card tickets, payable on demand, and equally current with the silver coin. Several forged ones, for five shillings each, were issued in the name of a gentleman resident at Peel, accustomed to have his notes in circulation. The criminal was detected, and confessed the fraud. It could not be considered in any other light than that of a civil debt. The matter was in some way compounded, and the prisoner set at liberty.

When a summons to appear at court was nothing else than a piece of marked stone, we may easily suppose that an error or a perversion

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of its use might frequently happen. To counterfeit or make false use of the Governor's token subjected the offender to a fine of twenty shillings ; of the Deemster's token, to a fine of ten shillings, besides imprisonment, in either case, during the Governor's pleasure.\*

We have seen that two punishments may, in some instances, be inflicted for the same offence : nor is there any thing unjust in the practice, when a public and a private wrong are blended. A statute of Henry the Eighth directs that, in cases of mayhem, treble damages shall be awarded, as a compensation for the civil injury, to be recovered by action of trespass ; and that the offender shall also be criminally prosecuted for a fine to the King. Any one beating a clerk in orders, is, even now, in England, subject to three kinds of prosecutions, which may be pursued at the same time ; an indictment for breach of the peace, by assault and battery ; a civil action for damages ; and a suit in the Ecclesiastical Court.

All felonies, and most crimes, must be determined at the Court of General Goal Delivery.

\* Statute-book, 1651.

Before any person can be tried, he must be indicted: I will therefore speak of the indictment first.

When a person is apprehended on suspicion of felony, the Coroner, in whose sheading it has been committed, is obliged, *ex officio*, to take the offender into custody, and, by warrant of the Deemster, summon a jury of six good and lawful men out of the sheading, together with all such persons as he thinks may be able to give any testimony in the matter, to appear before the Deemster. If the crime be committed in one sheading, and the supposed criminal live in another, the jury must consist of three men of each sheading.\* They are, under the direction of the Deemster, to make inquiry, and take evidence, in writing, respecting the offence complained of. Upon proof, confession, strong presumption, or suspicion, supported by prevailing circumstances, the jury indict the offender. The Deemster is required to receive their verdict; to transmit it, with the depositions that have been taken, to the Rolls Office; and to release, admit to bail, or imprison such person, so acquitted or indicted, as the nature of the case may require.

\* Chaloner, page 20.

This mode of indictment does not extend to petty larceny. In the latter case, the method of proceeding is somewhat different; the suspected party being examined upon oath, and if unable to clear himself, immediately found guilty; a practice, that, in every moral and religious point of view, cannot be too much condemned. If the jury convict the offender of petty larceny, the cause goes not before another jury, as in case of felony, but is by this verdict finally decided.

When any one has been indicted for felony and committed to prison, there must be summoned, at least three days before the sitting of the court, a jury, consisting of twelve good and lawful men, to try the delinquent: and it is usual for the same jury to try all the cases that occur at one time. The court is held at Castletown, as occasion may require, by order of the Governor, himself and the two Deemsters presiding therein.

One credible witness proving the felony, and supported by probable circumstances, though it was not formerly, is now held sufficient to convict the prisoner.

In case of doubt arising to the jury, respecting any evidences or circumstances before them, they

may ask the opinion of the Deemsters, but must finally decide according to their own.

A custom, observed by the Saxons before the Conquest, prevails here: the Bishop or his deputy sits in the court till the verdict is determined; the Deemster asking the jury, instead of "guilty or not guilty," "Vod fir-charree soie," "May the man of the chancel continue to sit?"

Women, convicted of any capital crime, were formerly put into a sack and drowned: \* but, in either sex, the punishment now is to be hanged.

Besides the courts of law is the Great Inquest, a jury or juries of very ancient date, abolished in 1777, but re-established in 1798. It consists of six juries, one for each sheading, of twelve men each; the two parishes of the Garff sheading sending six men each; every other parish, four. They are named by the Coroner, and continue in office for one year. They are obliged, by their oaths, to present in the proper courts all known offenders, public or private, whether of the Lord's officers, tenants, or other inhabitants. The act, which re-establishes the Great Inquest, appoints some regulations for their proceedings, and takes

\* Chaloner, p. 20 and 21.

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away whatever power they formerly possessed, or had assumed, respecting ' the trying or determining the right or title of boundaries not adjoining the commons, or wastes, and of ways, waters, water-courses, and boundaries between party and party; and directs that all trials respecting the boundaries of wastes or commons, should be before a Deemster, and that the evidence should be taken down in writing.' An appeal from the decision of the Great Inquest may be made to the House of Keys.

The courts were not formerly courts of record. The laws were locked up in the breasts of the Governor and Deemsters, conveyed by oral tradition from one generation to another, and known to the people only by the sentence which they decreed. This practice was followed by the more eligible plan of keeping precedents, as guides for future determinations. Even then, they were kept by three locks, their respective keys in the possession of the three chief officers of state, from the scrutinizing eye of the vulgar; nor were they, till the fifteenth century, generally known to the body of the people.

The inhabitants appear content with their laws; and the decisions of the Governor and

Deemsters are considered extremely equitable. Strangers, indeed, imagine that in trials between themselves and the natives, the latter sometimes have the preference. Of their laws and constitution they talk little: there are no parties among the generality of the people; and differences of opinion respect English, and not Manks politics. In the House of Keys, however, dissensions sometimes arise. Their debates and decisions are not always so favourable as the other branches of the legislature might wish; and they possess a large majority of what is termed the Manks party, or those more inclined to the preservation or enlargement of the rights and liberties of the people than to the encroachments of any part of the government. Major Taubman takes the lead of this party; and holds the office of Speaker of the House.



## CHAPTER VII.

*On the Privileges enjoyed by Debtors.*

**A FEW** anecdotes arising out of the real, or supposed privileges of the island, will form the subject of the present chapter.

Although persons having debts abroad or actions determined against them are privileged, excepting so far as respects their moveable property, yet no asylum is here afforded for any one guilty of criminal conduct.

About sixty years since, a lady of the name of Hingstone was imprisoned in this island for a debt of her husband's, the particulars of which transaction I am unable to give the reader. It gave rise to a pamphlet, published in 1751, entitled "Liberty Invaded," and to another by J. Baldwin, Esq. entitled "British Liberty in Chains, and England's Ruin on the Anvil in the Isle of Man, now commonly called, Little France, addressed to all Free Britons, zealous for the glory of their King, the Liberties of the People, and

Safety of the Realm, especially to the laudable Association of Antigallicans," 1755, 8vo.

A considerable time ago, a man of the name of Wood escaped from Dublin goal and found his way to this island. He was either traced, or discovered by advertisement; and a correspondence respecting him ensued, between the Governor of Man and the Secretary of State for Ireland. The nature of his crime I have been unable to learn, but am informed that it was not felonious. He was finally escorted back to Dublin.

Scotch bankrupts refusing to surrender themselves, have sometimes been apprehended on this island and sent back to Scotland, even at a time when such conduct was not in that country felony.

A few years ago a stock broker of the name of Daniels, nephew to Mr. Goldamid, arrived here from London with about eleven thousand pounds in his pocket. He had been employed by a person to sell out stock to the amount of sixteen or eighteen thousand pounds, and received the money of the purchaser. He gave his employer, as is usual, a draft upon his banker for the amount; but not thinking proper to pay in any of the sum received, and not having sufficient effects

there, the draft was returned for non-payment, and the drawer was not to be found. It appears evident from the transaction that his design was fraudulent; but not more so than that of any person purchasing goods, re-selling them, and making off with the money; which latter practice is deemed in law, unless the articles be bought under false pretences, to be a private and not a public wrong. There is no law to prevent a man's drawing upon his banker for a greater sum than the effects in his hands. The vendor, in accepting the draft instead of cash, took it upon the reputed credit and integrity of Daniels: and although many persons considered the transaction as a fraud which the law could reach, yet the greater number of those, well informed on subjects of this nature, did not imagine it to be so. Of the former opinion was the Chief Magistrate of the city of London, who, on complaint being made to him, gave immediate directions to have the offender advertised in all the papers, with a reward for his apprehension. These advertisements very accurately described his person; and the High Bailiff of Douglas was the first who perceived a resemblance between their description and a gentleman who had lately taken lodg-

ings in that town. He communicated his suspicions to others, and an examination was determined upon. The account which he gave of himself was so contradictory as nearly to determine their opinion; and, instead of conveying him to the Castle, the more lenient measure was adopted, of placing sentinels at the door of his apartments till the Governor's pleasure could be known. He afterwards confessed to Lieutenant Governor Shaw and the High Bailiff, that their suspicions were well founded. The Council was convened upon the occasion, and it was determined to deliver him into the custody of two Bow-street Officers, who had come in pursuit of him. It was thought expedient to gain Daniels' consent to his return. This and the money in his possession were obtained by the Officers, on giving their promise that no criminal prosecution should be carried on against him. On his arrival in London, a process of this nature was, nevertheless, immediately commenced, and he was finally acquitted by the jury.

This transaction gave rise to a long paper war, carried on by the High Bailiff and a resident of Douglas, supposed to be Sir John Macartney, through the medium of the Manks

Weekly Journal, respecting the legality of the arrest. It was affirmed by the former to be legal on account of the criminality of the party ; and of precedence in similar, or less fraudulent cases. The latter urged, with some plausibility, that it was at least a question which admitted of doubt ; that it had been the immemorial custom in all doubtful cases, to summon the Keys and take their opinion upon the subject ; and that the delivery of Daniels, without previously so doing, was an illegal act.

Soon after the agitation of this question, the High Bailiff published in the Manks paper, a resolution which he intended to move in the House of Keys, himself being a member of that body, that all privileges enjoyed by foreigners should be annulled, and that the island should be no longer an asylum for the unfortunate, or the fraudulent. His former opponent was again roused to action. He asserted, that much of the prosperity of the country arose from its being the residence of strangers (himself being one), and that without them it would be a miserable place. The framer of the bill replied, that it would be more creditable to the island to be without such strangers as he alluded to. The

controversy died away, either without any bill of the kind being submitted to the consideration of the legislature, or of its being quietly negatived.

Since the affair of Daniels an attempt was made to apprehend and take away a gentleman now resident at Douglas, for having sent a challenge to a nobleman in Ireland, both at that time residing there, and having been consequently indicted by the Grand Jury for his breach of the peace. A correspondence again took place between the Governor and the Secretary. The former finally declined to issue any order for his apprehension, probably not thinking it a matter of sufficient criminality, and knowing that the object of the indictment was merely to procure his return to Ireland, where he might have been arrested for a debt to the very large amount of £20,000/.. due to his Lordship, for damages recovered in an action against the defendant for criminal conversation with his lady. For the debt, indeed, he was here arrested according to the *Manks law*; and for a short time confined in the castle of the metropolis, the plaintiff being apprehensive that he would otherwise make his escape from the island, while the more important

case was pending. On its being decided he was immediately released, his opponent well understanding, that, although he was a man of property, he took care to have none liable to seizure. His credit here stands very high, and I heard the Chief Deemster say in open court, that he should consider his security for the payment of a debt equal to a bank note.\*

It seems now sufficiently determined by precedents, that except in merely civil cases, no persons are here privileged from the common course of law, unless the Governor refuse, as he did in the one last mentioned, to sanction such proceeding. In case of notorious criminality he would never do so.

When a debtor whom the law cannot reach has taken refuge upon the island, it has not unfrequently been the custom (to the shame of the island be it spoken) for a creditor to hire five or six ruffians to carry him away by force. They seize him in an unguarded moment, take him off his legs, hurry him into a boat, and thence put him on board a vessel lying ready to receive him. The Manks Government has not inter-

\* For these anecdotes I am indebted to Mr. Cosnahan, High Bailiff of Douglas.

ferred or made any inquiry into such infamous transactions. Could any villains be found sufficiently hardy to attempt the seizure of the last mentioned gentleman, their courage need not, probably could not, be put to any further trial. It is said, I know not with what truth, that a reward of five thousand pounds has been offered to any one who will deliver him into custody, in Ireland.

It is a remarkable fact, that all who have been thus carried away were Scotch drovers, persons employed to buy and sell cattle, who by fraudulent means had obtained large sums of money, and who had brought in their pockets several thousand pounds.

An instance of the kind happened at Douglas during my residence in that town. A drover of reputed honesty had obtained money to a considerable amount from various persons, under the pretence of making for them advantageous purchases of cattle. Having amassed as much as possible, he immediately proceeded to Whitehaven, intending to spend in the Isle of Man, the supposed place of security, his ill-gotten wealth. The wind was boisterous and adverse: no vessel would put to sea. He had no authority, like



Cæsar, to tell the captain that he would carry a drover and his fortune : but I saw the master of an open coal boat, to whom he in vain offered one hundred pounds to perform the voyage. This man said he believed he should have struck the bargain, had not his vessel been then aground. Disappointed and fearful of delay, he proceeded to Liverpool, and was obliged to remain two or three days in that town, awaiting the departure of a vessel for the desired port.

In the mean time the creditors heard of his decampment, and judging it probable that he had fled to the privileged island, determined if possible, to use force against fraud. One to whom he owed 1,200*l.* embarked without delay, and arrived at Douglas before his debtor. He was permitted by law to imprison any debtor till he could find bail for his personal appearance, and the delivering up of his effects upon the island, or till the action, never long postponed, could be heard ; and still expecting the arrival of the drover, he procured a warrant to arrest him. He hired a vessel and half a dozen sturdy fellows, and examined each ship as it arrived. At length came the packet from Liverpool, and the rascal on landing was conveyed to prison.

He little dreaded his adversary's power, and hired a post-chaise to carry him the next morning to Castletown. A person who has power to confine another, has power also to release him. In the dusk of the evening he set his men upon the watch, and dismissed the action. The prison is close to the sea : the gate was thrown open, and out walked the drover, exulting in the confirmation of his liberty, and the success of his plans. Scarcely had the door shut after him, when he was seized by the men in waiting, hurried to a boat, and thence put on board a vessel. The ship soon weighed anchor ; but to what port he was carried, or what afterwards became of him. I could never learn.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*The Sale of the Island.*

**I**N order to prevent the smuggling trade of the Isle of Man, which, in the beginning of the last century, began to prognosticate great evil to England, and perhaps for other reasons, it was the wish of the British government that the sovereignty of the island should be re-vested in the King. An act consequently passed the legislature in 1726, authorising the Earl of Derby to sell his royalty and revenue.

Although many proposals were made to him, and his successor, they always made delays, unwilling to complete the sale; and the object of government remained incomplete till John Duke of Athol and his Duchess succeeded to the royalty. In the first and last year of their reign, and in the fifth of that of his present Majesty, A. D. 1765, the sovereignty was re-vested in the King of England. The people were at first much alarmed at the consequent change of affairs, but experience has since taught the industrious part

of them to consider it a great advantage to the country; the Duke however was ever afterwards much disliked on this account.

A song, of which the following is a verse, was composed on the occasion, and is well remembered to this day:

“ For the babes unborn will rue the day,  
That the Isle of Man was sold away;  
For there’s ne’er an old wife that loves a dram,  
But what will lament for the Isle of Man.”

The sovereign formerly bore the title of King, and his consort is styled Queen in some of the statutes. This title was, about three centuries ago, abandoned by Thomas, Earl of Derby; and Lord of Man assumed in its room. The reason which he gave for so doing was, that he thought it an empty title, since the country could no longer maintain itself independent of other nations; and that he deemed it more honourable to be a great Lord than a petty King.

The preamble of the Act of re-vestment recites the grant of Henry IV. and the confirmation of it by Act of Parliament of 7th James I. regulating the entail of the island, and the succession to it. It mentions the death of Charles, Earl of Derby, in 1735; and that the property

was consequently vested in James, Duke of Athol, as heir general to James, Earl of Derby, who was beheaded in 1651; that James, Duke of Athol, conveyed it to trustees in a deed of feoffment executed on the 6th of April, 1756, to make an absolute sale of it after his death, with the consent of the then Lord-proprietor his heir; the money arising therefrom to be laid out in the purchase of lands in Scotland, to be entailed in the strictest manner according to the law of that kingdom on the heirs male of his body, with remainders, designed to prefer the line of the Murrays to the line of heirs from the seventh Earl of Derby, with an ultimate remainder, not to the heir general of James, seventh Earl of Derby, but to Duke James's heirs and assigns. It says, that James, Duke of Athol, died in 1764, and that his only child, Charlotte Murray, and her husband, then Duke of Athol, became entitled to the Isle of Man according to their estates and interests under the prescribed entails.\*

The treaty specifies that the Duke and Duchess shall receive 70,000*l.* to be laid out in estates of Scotland to be entailed for ever on their heirs

\* See Statutes at large, Vol. X.

in purchase of their royalty, the revenues arising, or to be raised from the custom-duties and some other perquisites; themselves retaining the manerial rights, with many other advantages and emoluments. This sum was consequently paid into the Bank of England in the names of the Duke and Duchess of Athol, Sir Charles Frederick, and Edmond Hoskins, to be by them appropriated to the purpose above specified. Respecting the perquisites and emoluments, some misunderstanding had arisen; the English government having claimed more than the Duke by this treaty intended to give up; and the Duke and Duchess had the further grant of an annuity of 2,000*l.* upon their lives.\*

In the year 1781, the present Duke, son to the vender of his royalty, presented a petition to parliament, which stated, among other complaints, that many parts of the Act of the fifth year of George the Third required explanation and amendment, and that proper remedies or powers were omitted to be given by the said Act to the Duke and Duchess of Athol, their heirs or assigns, seneschals or stewards, and moors and

\* The date of this grant I know not, being unable to find any account of it in the statutes.

bailiffs, for the obtaining of the several rights and interests, or for the exercise or enjoyment of such as were intended to be reserved: and therefore prayed that leave might be given to bring in a bill to explain and amend the said Act, made in the fifth year of the reign of his present Majesty, and to enable the said Duke and his heirs to obtain, exercise, and enjoy, certain powers and remedies.\*

He alleged, that the revenues arising to his family were not fairly collected prior to the re-vestment, many frauds being then practised; and consequently that the annual revenue to which the purchase money was proportioned was much too small, the frauds having been since prevented by the regulations of the English government: that his father had the power of increasing the duties with the consent of the council and the Keys, and that such consent, to any reasonable degree, would not have been withheld; that some rights, not intended to be vested in the crown, had been so vested, such as herring-custom, salmon-fisheries, and treasure-trove.

A petition, being a memorial of John Cas-

\* Vide Journal of the House of Commons, Vol. 98.

nahan, of the House of Keys, and agent for that body, was laid before parliament against the passing of the bill. It stated that the proposed bill contained many provisions against the present constitution, and injurious to the inhabitants of the island.

Counsel having been heard on both sides, the bill, somewhat amended, passed the House, under the following title: "An Act to explain and amend an act of the fifth year of the reign of his present Majesty, intituled, "An Act, &c"—; and to ascertain and establish the jurisdiction of the manerial courts of the most noble John Duke of Athol, in the said island; and to enable the said Duke and his heirs to exercise and enjoy certain rights, powers, and remedies, therein contained."

Counsel was again heard in the House of Lords. The Lord Chancellor was against the bill. He said that what the public purchased of the late Duke of Athol seemed to him of very little importance, no more, in his apprehension, than certain rights and privileges, incident to the proprietor for the time being, as first magistrate and Lord of the soil; and which his Majesty's servants in the year 1765, very wisely deemed



to be improper to be longer vested in the hands of a subject, who exercised those rights independent of, and uncontrolled by, the British parliament. There were many instances to prove that the Lord of Man and the inhabitants were amenable and controllable by the British legislature. One instance only he should mention. In the reign of Henry the Eighth an act of parliament passed for abolishing all monasteries and abbies, and vesting the lands which belonged to them in the crown. In this bill were included those of Man; and the Earl of Derby, so far from exclaiming against the usurpation, or complaining of the injustice or oppression of such a stretch of foreign power, actually became a lessee for them under the king. Much had been said about manerial rights, whereas they appeared to have no real foundation whatever; these rights which had been thus claimed, having at different times, and upon various occasions, been granted to the Lords of Manors, and of course divested out of the Lord-paramount.

The Duke of Athol wished to have every paragraph examined by their Lordships with the minutest attention, being persuaded that the

more pains there were taken to develop the real purport and objects of the bill, the more supporters it would have.\*

The bill was finally lost in this House.

In the year 1790 the Duke again petitioned parliament; and General Murray moved for leave to bring in a bill for appointing commissioners to inquire into the extent and value of certain rights, revenues, and possessions in the Isle of Man.

Mr. Dundas supported the bill.

Sir Joseph Mawbey spoke against it.

Mr. Rose said, that the bargain of 1765 had been made in a hurry, that it was an unfair one, and required re-consideration.

The House of Keys petitioned that the bill might not pass into a law, and were heard by Counsel against it.

On the second reading it was opposed by Mr. Law, who denied any precipitancy in the bargain, the English government having had the purchase in contemplation ever since the reign of George the First. He considered 70,000*l.* and

\* Vide Parliamentary Register. Debrett. Vol. iv. 350, 351.

an annuity of 2,000*l.* on the lives of the Duke and Duchess an ample compensation.

Mr. Curwen said, that in 1787 the Duke promised the House of Keys that he would never introduce any bill respecting the island into parliament without giving them sufficient previous notice, and that of the present bill he had not given them the least. He could prove from authentic documents that the allegations of the noble Duke were utterly unfounded. If any greater compensation ought to be granted, the Duchess Dowager was entitled to receive it. She had been silent upon the subject, and he believed content. He had every reason for supposing that the late Duke was perfectly satisfied with the bargain he had made. What had been already granted, he maintained to be a most ample consideration. If the rights of the Duke had been invaded, he should resort for redress to the laws of the island, and not to the House of Commons.

General Murray defended the noble Duke from breach of promise, and said that the present could not be called a bill immediately affecting the inhabitants of the Isle of Man.

Sir James Johnston spoke in favour of the Duke's claims, but added, that whoever "injured the inhabitants of the Isle of Man ought to be plunged in hell."

Mr. Fox said there was a variety of allegations that the Duke's family had been injured, but no proof whatever.

Mr. Pitt on the other hand replied, that the committee appointed to inquire into the allegations had thought that there was proof sufficient.

Sir John Miller wished the House joy of what they were going to do. Henceforth they would have business enough upon their hands in remunerating every contractor who had made a bad bargain.

Mr. Henniker maintained that the late Duke held only a life interest in the island, and had no right to sell.

The order of the day for the commitment of the bill being read, Mr. Chancellor Pitt rising, observed, that notwithstanding his full conviction of the propriety and even necessity of proceeding with such a measure, yet, after the unfavourable impression which had gained ground upon the subject, he should think it in no degree pru-

dent to attempt to push the bill further at present, and should therefore move that the bill be committed for that day three months.\*

The bill was consequently lost.

In the year 1805 another petition was presented by the Duke to parliament, which, like the former was referred to a committee.

On its being moved that Colonel Stanley do bring up the report of the committee,

Mr. Curwen rose, not to oppose the bringing of it up, but to entreat sufficient time for a full investigation of the subject. The noble Duke had preferred a claim in the present petition, on which till now he had been silent, asserting that by the grant of James I. his ancestor had been invested with absolute royal authority.

A member said, that in the administration of Lord Sidmouth a negative had been put upon the claims of the Duke of Athol, and why should that be reversed?

Mr. Pitt stated that the evidence on which the committee proceeded, was drawn from the able and elaborate report of the commissioners, appointed by his Majesty in 1792 to make inquiry into the present state of the Isle of Man.

\* Vide Parliamentary Register. Debrett, Vol. xxvii. page 307, 315, 383, and 561.

On the reading of the report,

Mr. Curwen observed that the late Duke of Athol, on selling the island, had no right to sell the revenues. They belonged to the people, and were inalienable, and therefore he could not in justice claim any compensation, on the ground that the revenues had increased. The late Duke had, in fact, nothing to sell but his estate on the island, accompanied by a barren sceptre.

Sir W. Burroughs endeavoured to prove by the authority of Lord Coke, that the Lord of the island was formerly an independent monarch, and that the House of Keys was not a legislature, but only a judicial body.\* The customs' revenue since 1798 had increased from £6,000. to £16,000. a year.

Mr. Bond opposed the bill on the principles laid down by Coke and Blackstone, that the authority of parliament was paramount, and that it had an unquestionable right to legislate for the Isle of Man. There were no facts to shew that the Duke of Athol was independent of this controul. The memorial stated that the revenues

\* Previously to the year 1490, the Lord of Man had certainly exercised very arbitrary power, but at that era the constitution of the government was rendered much less monarchical.

of 1802 were greater than those of 1765. This circumstance had nothing at all to do with the present business.

Lord Glenbervie maintained that the opinion of Lord Coke was unfounded.

Lord Temple thought it his duty to resist a transaction which had the appearance of a job.

Mr. Pitt supported the petition on the justice of the claims.

Mr. Sheridan supported the bill in opposition to most of his friends.

Division: for receiving the report 114

against ditto 48

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majority 66

On the taking of the report into consideration,

Mr. Rose observed that the late Duke had been frightened into the bargain, that Lord Mansfield had told him that if he did not accept what was offered he would lose all.\* Parliament

\* In order to give to the reader as comprehensive a view of the subject as possible, I here subjoin an extract of the Act of 5 George III. which refers to a letter, addressed to the Lords of the Treasury, written in the names of the Duke and the Duchess of Athol, and dated Feb. 27, 1765. "They did declare that they were ready, if it should be deemed necessary for the public service, to part with all their rights held under the several grants of the Isle of Man; but

had certainly no right to legislate for the island. Lord Coke had never asserted that parliament had a right to legislate for the island, but only

apprehended that the reservation of their landed revenue, together with the patronage of the bishoprick, and other ecclesiastical benefices of the island, could not interfere with the interest of the public; and notwithstanding the difficulty of proposing a proper compensation (which might expose them to the imputation of making an unreasonable demand on the one hand, and of not doing sufficient justice to their family on the other), yet as the circumstances of the case had made it necessary, they did therefore hope that neither his Majesty, nor the parliament, would think the clear sum of 70,000*l.* too great a price to be paid them in full compensation for the absolute surrender of the Isle, Castle, and Peel of Man, and all rights, jurisdictions, and interests, in and over the said island, and all its dependencies, holden under the several grants thereof, or any other title whatsoever, reserving only their landed property, and all their rights in and over the soil as Lord of the Manor, with all courts-baron, rents, services, and other incidents to such courts belonging, their wastes, commons, and other lands, inland waters, fisheries, and mills, and all mines, minerals, and quarries, according to their present rights therein, felons' goods, deodands, waifs, estrays, and wrecks at sea, together with the patronage of the bishoprick, and of the other ecclesiastical benefices of the island to which they were entitled." *Vide Statutes at large, 4to Vol. x.*

It appears to me, for reasons given in a former part of this work, that the revenues of the late Duke, with the exception of manerial rights, and possibly of 1,000*l.* or at most of 2,000*l.* besides, arose from the smuggling trade. Postlethwayte says, that "the revenues of the Duke of Athol arise for the most part from small duties, and customs paid upon



that some special provisions might extend to it.\* There was now a surplus revenue from the island, and from this the compensation was proposed to be paid.

Sir William Young said that the ancestor of the Duke of Athol (the last Earl of Derby) had farmed the revenue of the island to a merchant at Liverpool for 1,000*l.* a year, and the Duke had no right to claim additional compensation in

goods entered, and afterwards smuggled upon the coasts of England, Wales, Ireland, and Scotland." See his Commercial Dictionary, Article, Man.

On the 17th January, 1765, a bill was ordered to be brought into parliament "to prevent the mischiefs arising to the revenue and commerce of Great Britain and Ireland, from the illicit and clandestine trade to and from the Isle of Man." The Duke and Duchess petitioned against the passing of this bill; and expressed a fear that their ancient privileges, and their revenues, were about to be wrested from them. While it was pending, their treaty with the treasury was concluded. They saw that the English government were taking every means in their power to check this illicit traffic, and justly dreaded a loss of the greater part of their revenue. Vide Journals of the Commons, Vol. 30, p. 90 and 139.

\* "The Isle of Man is not governed by our laws, neither doth any act of parliament extend to it, unless it be particularly named therein, and then an act of parliament is binding there." Vide Blackstone, Vol. I. p. 106, who gives Coke as his authority, 4 Inst. 284.

consequence of the increase of that revenue under the fostering care of the British Legislature, and from the influence of the British laws. The nett revenue of the island had been reckoned at much too high a sum: for the bounty on herrings amounted to 4,000*l.* a year, and this should be first deducted.\*

Mr. Windham wished to record his sentiments upon the subject. The whole transaction appeared to him what is vulgarly called a job. There was no compulsion upon the Duke of Athol to assent to the terms he agreed to in 1765. It was said that if the Duke had not agreed to the terms proposed he would have lost all. He might have lost the greater part of his revenue; but he would have retained his estate, his regalities, his honours; and these alone

\* This statement appears very erroneous, and drawn from I know not what document. Herrings were entitled to a bounty, according to circumstances, of 1*s.*, 1*s.* 9*d.*, or 2*s.* 8*d.* per barrel. The commissioners appointed in 1792, report the bounty for the years 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, to be 3906*l.* 18*s.* 3*d.* making an average of 976*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* per annum. The herring trade since that time is allowed rather to have fallen off than increased. The same report states the expences of the island, including bounties, for the year 1790 to be 3272*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*

he conceived to be saleable articles. The revenue of a people is public property.

Mr. Sheridan suspected that from the manner in which his honourable friends opposed this claim, they had not given themselves the trouble of reading it. He thought the Duke an injured man. In a letter of the late Duke to Lord Mansfield, requesting his advice, he sent a detailed estimate of the losses at 620,000%.\*

Mr Wilberforce ridiculed the estimate of 620,000% and said it would seem as if his Grace had considered the sovereignty of the Isle of Man as something nearly equivalent to the crown of Poland.

“The crown of Poland, venal twice an age,  
To just a million stints the modest guage.”

The house divided: for the Duke's petition, 95  
against it, 38

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majority 57

On the further consideration of the report Mr. Pitt moved that one fourth of the gross revenues of the Isle of Man be allowed to the Duke and his heirs for ever, which being estimated at

\* It would be amusing to learn how much of this sum was put down to the account of honours.

12,000*l.* would yield an income of about 3,000*l.* per annum.

Mr. Creevey complained of a great deal of canvassing by the friends of the petitioner.

Mr. Sheridan, kindling at the expression, said, that if there had been canvassing on the side of the petitioner, there had been much more shameful canvassing on the opposite side. He had been canvassed by both parties, but in a very different manner. The justice of the cause had made him espouse it. He had not the least partiality for the noble Duke.

After some opposition this motion passed,

Ayes 79

Noes 26

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Majority 53

On the second reading of the bill were,

Ayes 50

Noes 12

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Majority 38

Sir William Young previously moved an amendment, that the Duke, instead of receiving one fourth of the revenues of Man, should re-

ceive annually, out of the consolidated fund, a sum equal to one fourth, which was agreed to.\*

On the 2d July the bill was read a third time and passed, Mr. Curwen having, in every stage, exerted all his strength against it.

Ayes 42

Noes 12

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Majority 30

In the House of Lords it again met with opposition.

Lord Ellenborough expressed his surprise at the appeal of the Duke, and his absolute disapprobation of the parliamentary proceedings. A moment before he is called upon to consent to that stage of the bill, in which it is his duty to oppose the principle, if he thinks it wrong, a huge folio volume is put into his hands,† so reeking from the press, that it is with danger to his health that he can hold it to read it through. The bill contained, and was founded on propositions untrue in fact and in law. The very first was, that the former right of the Duke of Athol in the Isle of Man was a sovereignty. It was a

\* The state of the case is in no way altered by this amendment.

† The report of the commissioners.

lordship, a dominion; but no lawyer, no historian, had ever named it a sovereignty. The privileges and the rights of the Duke in the Isle of Man were held by petty serjeantry. Yet the bill three times repeats the false assertion:

*"Like a tall bully" ———*

He would not finish the sentence in its own words; but every man saw the epithet that would apply to the conduct of the bill. It was falsely asserted either that the noble Duke's ancestor was compelled to alienate his rights in the Isle of Man, or that he did not receive full compensation.

Lord Harrowby supported the bill.

The Marquis of Buckingham repelled the attacks made against Mr. Grenville, Chancellor in 1765. He denied any precipitancy in the measure, the treaty having been two years in hand previously to its conclusion.

Lord Sidmouth opposed the bill at great length. During his administration of 1802 the Duke presented a memorial to his Majesty, which was referred to the privy council. After consulting the law-officers of the crown, they came to the unanimous resolution that there was no

*"The remainder of the line is "rears its head and eyes."*

ground for conceiving the former compensation inadequate. Soon after the change of administration a similar petition was referred to the privy council, and they came to a resolution exactly the reverse of the former.

Lord Mulgrave replied, that the first set of lawyers, to whom the claims had been submitted, had said only that they saw no reason to think that the compensation had been inadequate; but that the second set had positively given their opinion that it was inadequate. He much lamented that such rude and boisterous language had been used by a noble Lord early in the debate.

Lord Ellenborough asserted that his language was neither rude nor boisterous, but only such as the subject required.

The Lord Chancellor could find nothing in the evidence to show that the compensation granted in 1765 was inadequate in 1805.

Lord Hawkesbury said that he came to the consideration of the claim with an unbiassed and impartial mind, and, from the evidence before the House, was firmly of opinion that the bargain had been forced upon the Duke and Duchess of Athol, and that the compensation had not been adequate.

On the question being put on the second reading of the bill, there appeared—Contents 35

Non-contents 11

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Majority 24

On the third reading of the bill, Contents 24

Non-contents 5

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Majority 19

The bill soon afterwards received his Majesty's assent.





## BOOK III.

### THE HISTORY OF THE ISLE OF MAN.

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#### CHAPTER I.

*From the earliest tradition to the reign of  
Godred Crovan.*

**I**T sometimes happens that, while the more interesting records of independent and powerful nations are destroyed by the conquests of foreigners or by internal contentions, the history of smaller and less important states remain uninjured, and give us earlier views into human life and manners. The historians, however, of these early periods seldom afford much information beyond the name of the sovereign, and the event of a battle, with sometimes an account of the promulgation of a code of laws, or the establishment of a monastery: and it is only by careful

comparison of notices accidentally inserted, that we gain any information on the subjects which, to a modern reader, are the most interesting.

The early history of Man rests only on tradition; and that tradition is neither full, nor always consistent. According to Nianlus, this island was held by Biule, a Scot, in the reign of Arcadius and Honorius: according to Sacheverel, towards the end of the fourth century. At the beginning of the fifth, tradition assigns it to Mananan Mac Leir, a magician, who kept it enveloped in perpetual mists till St. Patrick broke the charm; and, having persuaded or compelled Mac Lier to relinquish the possession, made Germanus bishop and ruler of the island. He, by his wisdom, conduct, and virtuous example, completely established the christian religion among the people.

On the death of Germanus, St. Patrick sent over two other bishops, to govern the country; after whom St. Maughold was elected by the unanimous consent of the Manks nation. This saint had been a captain of robbers in Ireland, and, arriving, during the administration of the two preceding bishops, in a little leathern boat, his hands manacled and bolts on his feet, pre-

tended that he had thus exposed himself as a penance for the crimes of his past life; and made use of the reputation for sanctity, thus obtained, to obtain the government of the island. After this, the administration of affairs continued in the hands of the bishops till the coming of a king, called Orry: but whence and at what time he came, and under what circumstances he obtained the government, are events unknown.

About the year 580, Brennus, nephew to Aydun, king of Scotland, got possession of the crown. All we are told of him is that, fourteen years afterwards, he led an army to the assistance of his uncle, and obtained a victory at the expense of his life.

On the death of Brennus the island appears to have been annexed to Scotland, and the three sons of Eugenius, the son of Aydun, Ferguard, Fiacre, and Donald were sent hither to be educated under Conan, bishop of the isle. According to the Manks tradition they did great credit to their preceptor, for, though Ferguard was murdered in a conspiracy, soon after his accession to the throne of Scotland, yet the second, Fiacre, refused the crown, and became an eminent saint; and the third, Donald, governed with so

much prudence and justice as showed him to be greater than a saint.

About 614 this island is related to have been conquered by Edwin, king of Northumberland : but, how long he possessed it is uncertain : a blank occurs, even in tradition, till the tenth century, when a second Orry, son of a king of Denmark and Norway, having conquered the Orcades and Hebrides, fixed the seat of his government in the Isle of Man, where he reigned long and prosperously ; and became the father of a race of kings, from him called Orries.

This second Orry throws a doubt on the existence of a former king of that name, whose insertion may be esteemed the work of some zealous Manksman, anxious to carry back, as far as possible, the antiquities of his country.

To Guttred, the son of Orry, is ascribed the building of Castle Rushen, A.D. 960, in which he lies obscurely buried. He is said to have laboured greatly to advance the civilization of his people.

Reginald, the third of the family, was slain by two brothers of his army, whose sister he had seduced.

From the history of Olave, the next king, it

appears that, since its conquest by Orry, the island had remained tributary to the crown of Norway: for this Prince, having assumed the crown without the King of Norway's consent, was civilly invited to that country; but, on landing, was seized and executed.

Olain, his brother, is said to have seized on this and some other islands, by which expression we are perhaps to understand, that he did not wait for the consent of Norway, but maintained himself as an independent prince. After a prosperous reign of twenty-three years, he died of a flux in Ireland.

Allen succeeded, a cruel, libidinous man, who was poisoned by his governor. He left the crown to his son Fingal, who was succeeded by his son Goddard, princes of whom no character and no history are given.

According to the Manks tradition, twelve kings reigned successively of the race of Orry. The preceding list contains only eight; and it is remarkable that the most celebrated sovereign of the family should not have a certain place.

We learn from Sacheverel that Macon lived about the middle of the tenth century, a date which would place him either immediately before

or immediately after Guttred, if there was room for him there. He is said to have lost his crown for refusing to do homage to Edgar, King of England; but he was afterwards restored, and made admiral of that prodigious fleet of four thousand eight hundred sail,\* with which, twice a year, he sailed round the British islands, to clear the sea from rovers, especially the Danes and Normans, who, at that time, sadly infested the coasts of Europe.

How long this great man reigned is uncertain, and likewise, who succeeded him, though his name was probably Syrach, who held the kingdom about the beginning of the eleventh century, and was succeeded by his son Goddard, a man of no faith, no honour, treacherous, inconstant, timorous, and unjust, who in the latter part of his reign hospitably received and entertained Godred Crovan, the future conqueror of Man.

The establishment of this Prince is related in the Manks Chronicle, the first authentic history of Man. What precedes seems neither very

\* Matthew of Westminster. Hoveden says 3600 sail; Brompton 4000. Hume considers these accounts as perfectly incredible.

consistent in itself, nor to rest on any substantial authority, nor are the dates easily reconciled with each other. The first of the Orrys appears to have conquered the island for the crown of Norway; and Olain seems to have enfranchised it from that dependence. Guttred was Sovereign in 960: Macon, by the correspondence of English history, in 974, the year in which King Edgar is said to have been rowed by eight kings on the Dee. Olain reigned twenty-three years: he therefore must have followed Macon. But, it seems very improbable that Macon, who did homage for his crown to England, and had the command of its prodigious fleet, should have acknowledged any dependence on Norway. In this dilemma, perhaps the best way is to follow the opinion of Saceverel, and, passing the eight first Sovereigns of the history as the invention of the Manks, consider Macon as the first and indeed the only Sovereign of Man of whom we have any authentic account previously to the establishment of the Normans under Godred Crovan.



## CHAPTER II.

*From the Conquest of Godred Crovan to the  
revestment of the Island in the Crown of  
England, in 1765.\**

1066]—**W**HILE William of Normandy was making preparations for the invasion of England, he prevailed upon Harold's offended brother Tosti, in concert with Halfagar, King of Norway, to assist him in the enterprize by a descent upon the county of Northumberland. Their combined fleets, consisting of three hundred and sixty sail, entered the Humber; and their troops were disembarked with little moles-

\* This chapter, to the Scottish conquest, is written on the authority of the *Chronicon Maniæ*, a work composed by the Monks of Rushen Abbey, and published by Camden in his *Britannia*. The style of the Latin is that usually termed monkish and very bad of the sort. Prepositions are used for adverbs; "et nunquam ultra deversus est ad eos." It is a considerable time since I saw it in the original, and then read very little of it. Being unable to meet with it in my present place of residence, I have made use of Gough's Camden, to which likewise I am indebted for most of the latter part of this chapter.

tation. Under the King of Norway commanded Godred Crovan, son of Harold, King of Iceland. The invading army was engaged at Standford by Harold, King of England, on the 25th of September 1066: it was defeated with great slaughter, the two generals were slain, and Godred made his escape to the Isle of Man.

What time he remained here is uncertain, probably just long enough to observe that the kingdom was in a weak state, or its King unpopular; and to determine to seat himself upon the throne.

He returned in the following year with a numerous and hostile army, and found Fingal, the late King Syrach's son, in possession of the kingdom.

In his first battle with the inhabitants he was defeated, and obliged to seek refuge in his ships; and, in the second, was equally unsuccessful. For the third attack he recruited and enlarged his army: he cast anchor in Ramsey Bay; landed his troops by night; and laid an ambuscade of three hundred men in a wood, on the hollow brow of the hill of Scacafel. Early on the ensuing morning Godred was attacked with great impetuosity by the inhabitants. The action was

bloody, and neither party gave way till the three hundred men, rushing from their ambush, put the islanders to flight, and decided the fortune of the day. The river Selby being impassable by the influx of the tide, the fugitives were unable to escape, and with lamentable cries besought the conqueror to spare their lives. Moved with compassion at the calamitous condition of the people, Godred recalled his pursuing army, and the next day gave his followers their choice, either to divide the lands among them, or to plunder the island and depart. Soldier-like, they gave the preference to the latter proposition : but Godred with a few of his retainers, having determined to settle in the country, made choice of that portion lying southward of the mountain ridge, and granted the remainder to the natives, on the express condition that they should consider themselves as tenants, and him as the lord of the soil. Hence the whole island became the property of the King: till the fifteenth or sixteenth century was acknowledged so to be: and, though from the year 1703 he ceased to claim any title to the land itself, his rentals were then confirmed and continue to the present day.

At this period Ireland was divided into petty

principalities ; and nothing can more strongly shew the weakness of such a government than the awe in which its inhabitants stood of the little Isle of Man. Dublin, the capital, was reduced by Godred ; and a great part of the province of Leinster submitted to his arms. His navy was so powerful that he was able to oblige the Scots to keep theirs within narrow bounds ; and, to borrow from the Rushen Monks what I suppose is a metaphorical expression, they durst not, when building a ship or boat, drive more than three nails into it.

After a reign of sixteen years this valiant man died in Ila, one of his western islands, leaving three sons, Lagman, Harold, and Olave.

The eldest, Lagman, seized upon the government, and reigned seven years. His brother Harold was long in rebellion against him ; but, being at last taken prisoner, had his eyes put out and was otherwise mutilated. Lagman afterwards repented of his unbrotherly conduct towards Harold ; was overwhelmed with sorrow and despondency ; renounced his kingdom ; and, as an expiation of his guilt, made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, where he died.

1089.]—Olave being still a minor, the chief

inhabitants of Man dispatched ambassadors to Murecard O'Brien, King of Ireland; requesting him to send some diligent man of royal extraction to rule over them during his minority. O'Brien, granting their request, sent Donald, the son of Tade, enjoining him to govern the kingdom with clemency and justice. But, as soon as he was seated on the throne, he began to act the part of a tyrant, and behaved with so much cruelty and outrage that the inhabitants, unable to endure his oppression, conspired, rose up in arms, and obliged him to fly back to Ireland, whence he never attempted to return.

1097.]—In the year 1097 the King of Norway endeavoured to seize the sovereignty of the Isle of Man and of the Hebrides, and sent Ingemund to take possession of them. He landed in Lewis, and commanded all the chiefs of the islands to elect him king. In the mean time he and his attendants rioted in plunder, feasting, and all sorts of debauchery, ravishing women and virgins. The inhabitants, being enraged against him, besieged his house in the night time, set it on fire, and thus destroyed in the flames or by the sword himself and his retinue.

1098.]—Macmarus was the next king of Man:

but who he was, and what title he had to the crown, history does not inform us. His election to the dignity occasioned civil broils between the southern and northern districts of the island. The inhabitants of the former were headed by the king whom they had elected; those of the latter, the original natives, by Earl Outher. The armies met, and a battle was fought in the parish of St. Patrick. According to the Manks tradition the northern men had nearly won the victory, when the women of the south side came with so much resolution to the assistance of their husbands that they restored the battle; and, as a reward for their bravery, enjoyed one half of their husbands' estate during their widowhood, while their northern countrywomen had only one third.\* The *Chronicon Manniæ*, however, the foundation of this chapter, ascribes the victory to the inhabitants of the northern district. Both the generals were slain.

At this time Magnus, grandson to Harold Halfagar, was King of Norway. Having, contrary to the injunctions of his clergy, caused the tomb of St. Olave, King and Martyr, to be opened, in order to know whether the body

\* Sacheverel.

remained incorrupt; and having with his own hands and eyes ascertained that it did so, he was seized with great fear, and hastily departed. In the ensuing night the offended saint appeared before the affrighted King, and thus addressed him: "Take thy choice of these two commands: lose thy kingdom and thy life within thirty days; or quit this realm for ever." Early in the morning the King convened his nobles and the elders of his people; told them what a vision he had seen; and asked their advice respecting his future conduct. They recommended him to leave the kingdom with all possible dispatch: and pursuant to this determination he equipped a fleet of one hundred and sixty vessels, and left Norway for a foreign realm. The Orcades were the first islands that felt and yielded to his power; and the Hebrides quickly followed their example. Hence he sailed to the Isle of Man, and landed in the isle or parish of St. Patrick, the very day after the battle between the northern and southern inhabitants; and proceeded to view the field of action which was still strewed with the bodies of the slain. The Manks, weakened by internal dissensions, submitted to him without a contest. Being pleased with the island, he determined to

settle in it, and erected several forts for its defence. The men of Galloway were so much overawed by the terror of his name, that at his command they cut down timber, and brought it in their own vessels to the coasts of Man.

Finding every thing peaceable in his own kingdom, he invaded Anglesey, defeated an army, commanded by the Earls of Chester and of Shrewsbury, and received the submission of the people. Having accepted many presents from the northern counties of Wales, he returned to Man.

Such were his lofty behaviour and his power that he sent his shoes to Murecard O'Brien, commanding him to carry them on his shoulders through the middle of his house, on Christmas-day, in the presence of his messengers, in order to signify his subjection to King Magnus. The Irish, as might have been expected, received this command with the greatest indignation: but their King, conscious of the weakness of his nation, replied, that he would not only carry, but even eat the shoes, rather than King Magnus should destroy one province of Ireland. So he complied with the order, treated the messengers with great respect, and sent them back with presents for their master.



Magnus, on their return, questioned them respecting Ireland, and heard so much of its situation, of the beauty of the country, the fertility of the soil, and the salubrity of the air, that he turned his thoughts wholly to the conquest of that kingdom. He gave orders for the preparation of a large fleet, and in the mean time sailed with sixteen vessels to take a view of the country, Having incautiously left the ships, his party was surrounded by the offended Irish, and himself with nearly all his followers were slain. His reign over Man and the islands lasted six years. Perhaps England was never more formidable to the states of Europe, than was the Isle of Man to its neighbouring and comparatively great kingdoms in the reigns of Godfred Crovan, and of Magnus.

During the usurpation of the King of Norway, Olave, the son of Godfred, resided in England in the court of Henry the First. On the death of their King they sent a deputation to Olave to offer him the crown. [1102.] He ascended the throne to the great satisfaction of the people: he made treaties with all the Kings of Ireland and of Scotland; and enjoyed in profound peace a reign of forty years.

1142.]—In the year 1142, he sent his son God-

red to Norway, to do homage for the crown of Man. During his absence the three sons of Harold, Olave's brother, who had been educated at Dublin, came to Man with many followers, particularly such as had been banished from the island, and demanded one half of Olave's kingdom. The King, willing to pacify them, promised to consult his council on the subject. The place of meeting was near Ramsey Haven. The King with his retinue sat in due order on one side, while his nephews with their followers placed themselves on the other. Reginald, one of the nephews, being addressed by the King, approached his seat and appeared to be going to salute him, but, suddenly lifting up his shining battle axe, cut off his head at one blow. Olave left one legitimate son, Godred, by his wife Africa, daughter of Fergus of Galloway. By his concubines he had Reginald, Lagman, and Harold, besides many daughters, one of whom, married to Somerled, Prince or Duke of Argyle, afterwards occasioned the ruin of the kingdom of the Isles.

The people yielded without resistance to the wicked, but successful conspirators: and the three brothers divided among themselves the lands of Man,

In the same year they collected a fleet, intending to make a conquest of the country of Gallogway; but the natives, on their landing, fell upon the troops with violence, defeated them with great slaughter, and obliged the remnant of the army to return to Man.

1143.]—Just at this time Godred, Olave's son, returned from Norway and the usurpers submitted to his authority without hazarding a battle. One of them, in all probability the immediate murderer of his father, he put to death, and punished the other two with the loss of their eyes.

In the third year of his reign he was created, at the request of its inhabitants, King of Dublin. Murecard O'Brien, having made war against him, sent to Dublin an army of three thousand horse, which was routed by the Dublinians with Godred at their head.

The King, on his return to Man after this engagement, began to act in a despotic manner, depriving some of his nobles of their property. One of them, Thorfin, the son of Oter, mightier than the rest, went over to Sumerled in Scotland, and having reduced to his subjection many of the islands, proclaimed his son Dugball their King. Godred, hearing of these things, fitted

out a considerable navy, and sailed against Sumerled who was advancing with eighty sail of ships. [1156.]—The fleets met on the night preceding the feast of Epiphany, and fought a dreadful and indecisive battle. On the following morning, the commanders made a treaty, agreeing to divide between them the kingdom of the isles. [1158.]—The peace was of short duration; for, two years afterwards, Sumerled sailed to the Isle of Man with fifty-three ships; defeated Godred who fled to Norway for assistance; and laid waste the country.

1164.]—It appears that Somerled reigned over Man six years, at the expiration of which period, having collected a large fleet, he invaded Scotland, intending to conquer the whole of that kingdom. His troops were landed at Renfrew; were vanquished in the first engagement; and himself and his son were slain in the field of battle.

In the same year Reginald, natural son of Olave, having raised a party in his favour, fought, and defeated by treachery, an army of the people of Man.

Four days after the commencement of his reign, Godred arrived from Norway with a great

army ; attacked and took prisoner Reginald, put out his eyes, and treated him with other marks of severity.

✓ 1176.]—In the year 1176 we first hear of the Pope's influence in Man. He sent over from Ireland his legate Vivian, who obliged Godred to be re-married, according to the form of the Romish church, to his wife Phingola, granddaughter to Murecard O'Brien, her son Olave being at that time three years old.

1187.]—Godred died in the month of November of the year 1187, leaving one legitimate child, Olave, ten years old, whom he had made his heir, and two natural sons, Reginald and Yvar. In the summer of the following year, his body was conveyed for interment to the Isle of Iona.

On account of Olave's youth, the inhabitants of the Isle of Man sent to the Isles (or Hebrides) for Reginald, and made him their King.

1192.]—In the year 1192 a battle was fought in the Isles between Reginald and Engus, one of the sons of Somerled, in which the latter gained the victory.

1203.]—John Curcy had conquered the province of Ulster, and married Africa, Reginald's

sister. In 1203 Hugh Lacy attacked Ulster with a large army, made John Curcy prisoner, and conquered the whole province. John, being afterwards set at liberty, besought and obtained the assistance of Reginald in regaining his land. They sailed to Strangford bay with one hundred ships, and laid siege to Rath castle; but being in their first engagement obliged to retreat to their ships, never attempted to return.

1210.]—John of England sent to the Isle of Man an Earl, named Fulco, Reginald being as usual absent in the Isles, who, having laid waste the country and plundered the people, returned.

When Olave came to man's estate, his brother Reginald gave to him the Isle of Lewis, one of the largest of the Hebrides, but mountainous and barren, with few people, and these gaining their livelihood by hunting and fishing. Olave took possession of the island, and for some time lived there in a mean condition: but being unable to maintain his army, he went boldly to Reginald and thus addressed him: [1217.]—"My Brother and my Sovereign! you well know that the kingdom which you possess was mine by right of inheritance; but since God hath made you its King, I will not envy either your good fortune

or your crown. I only beg of you so much land in these isles as may maintain me honourably; for upon Lewis I cannot live." Reginald, in reply, told his brother that he would take the opinion of his council upon the request. The day following when Olave, by the King's order, came into his presence, he was apprehended and carried to William, King of Scotland, to be imprisoned in that kingdom. There he was confined for nearly seven years, at the end of which time William died, having directed that on his death all prisoners should be enlarged. Olave, being thus at liberty, went to Man, and left that island on a pilgrimage. On his return, Reginald gave him Lewis again, and made him marry Lavon, a sister of his own wife. Very shortly afterwards the bishop of the Isles called a synod and divorced Olave from Lavon, because she was a cousin-german of his former wife. Olave then married Christina, daughter of the Earl of Ross; which conduct so much offended Reginald's wife, that she sent a message, in her husband's name, to her son Godred, who resided in the Isle of Sky, commanding him to kill Olave. While Godred was contriving to execute this order, Olave being informed of Godred's design,

escaped in a little boat to his new father-in-law, leaving his enemy to lay waste the island. At this time Pol, a powerful man in Sky, and disaffected towards Godred, came over to the Earl of Ross, and lived with Olave at his house. They entered into a league, and learning by their spies that Godred lay in Iona in a very careless and defenceless state, they collected their friends and sailed with five ships to that island, where they landed early in the morning. Godred was in great consternation when he saw himself surrounded by armed men ; but made a resolute though unsuccessful resistance. Being taken prisoner he had his eyes put out and was castrated by the order of Pol. [1223]—Olave having received hostages from the nobles of the Isles, set sail for Man, and arrived at Derby-haven. Reginald, deeming it imprudent to risk a battle, agreed to grant to Olave one half of the Isles.

The next year, Reginald in conjunction with Allan, Lord of Galloway, a powerful Scot, sailed to the Isles, intending to dispossess their new Sovereign : but the army, consisting chiefly of Manksmen, and having a partiality for Olave, refused to fight against him, and obliged their commander to return home.



✓ Reginald, who did homage to the King of England, obtained from the inhabitants of Man one hundred marks to pay the expense of a journey to his court. It was soon discovered that the proposed journey was nothing but a pretext; for Reginald proceeded immediately to Allan's court, and during his stay in Galloway married his daughter. The Manks, indignant at these proceedings, sent for Olave, and made him King. [1226.]—Thus Reginald lost his crown after a reign of thirty-eight years.

1228.]—In the second year after his accession, Olave, with all the nobility, and many of the inhabitants of Man, sailed over to the Isles. Reginald, in order to bring religion to his aid, had made a surrender of his lost kingdom to the see of Rome; a copy of which act is still extant. He prevailed upon Allan, and Thomas, Earl of Athol, to seize with him the opportunity of Olave's absence to make a descent upon the Isle of Man. They wasted all the southern part of it, spoiled the churches, and put to death so many of the inhabitants that the whole country was a scene of desolation. Having thus gratified their revenge, the invaders returned to Galloway, leaving bailiffs to collect tribute from the people:

but King Olave, coming upon these men unexpectedly, put them to flight and recovered his kingdom.

In the ensuing winter Reginald came to the Isle of Man in the dead of the night, and burned all the ships in Peel-harbour. Thence he proceeded to Derby-haven where he remained forty days, soliciting peace of his brother, and endeavouring to gain the affections of the inhabitants. So far he obtained his purpose that the southern men swore to assist him with their lives in recovering half of the kingdom. The northern men adhered to Olave; and on the 14th February, 1228, the two brothers came to an engagement, near the Tinwald hill, which terminated in the victory of Olave, and the death of Reginald.

Reginald appears to have been a man of ambition and of abilities, but destitute of virtue, treacherous, unjust, and cruel; always ready to gain an end by any means. During the latter part of his reign the inhabitants lived in that miserable and unsettled state necessarily attendant upon a dread of their own tyrant, and constant apprehension of a foreign foe.

1230.]—Olave went to Norway to do homage to Haco for his crown, and on his return, was

accompanied by that king, Godred Don, the son of Reginald, and many Norwegians. Haco, in attacking a castle in the Isle of Bute, was killed by a stone, and buried in Iona. Olave and Godred Don divided the Isles between them; the former retaining possession of Man: but the latter being slain soon afterwards in Lewis, Olave became sole king.

1234.]—Henry the Third of England granted to him a certain annuity in silver coin and wine for defending the sea coast.\*

After the enjoyment of a peaceful reign he died in St. Patrick's Isle, and was buried in Rushen Abbey.

1237.]—Harold, at fourteen years of age, succeeded to his father's crown.

In the first year of his reign he went to the Isles, making Loglen, his kinsman, Governor of Man: but in the spring following returned.

1238.]—Having refused to appear at the court of the king of Norway, the Isle of Man was

\* "No. 3. Anno 19 H. 3. 1234. Pro Olavo, rege Manniæ, de custodia costerarum maris, ac ejus feodo. Notatu dignissimæ. 5. 1." Minutes of Council. See Bree's *Cursory Sketch of the Reign of Edward the Third*, taken wholly from ancient manuscripts in the British Museum and elsewhere, 1791, vol. 1. p. 379.

invaded by a Norwegian army, under Gospatrick and Gillchrist who converted the tributes of the country to the service of their own king: [1239.]—Harold being induced to submit, sailed over to the king of Norway, did him his accustomed homage, and was confirmed in the possession of all the islands which his predecessors had enjoyed:

1342.]—On his return home, he made peace with the kings of England and of Scotland: [1247.]—He paid a visit to the former; was knighted by him, and received many tokens of his favour:

Soon afterwards the king of Norway offered him his daughter in marriage, and Harold sailed accordingly to that kingdom. The newly married couple enjoyed for a very short time their expected happiness; for, during their voyage homeward a sudden storm unfortunately arose: the ship on which they were aboard was wrecked; and the whole crew perished.

1249.]—Harold's brother Reginald was the next king of Man: but a few days after his accession to the throne, he was slain by Yvar, a knight, in a meadow in the southern district.

It is said, (but not in the *Chronicon Mannis*)

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that the king and Yvar were enamoured of the same damsel; that the lady returned the affections of Yvar; but that Reginald carried her away by force. Hence Reginald paid for his injustice with his blood, and the two lovers made their escape to Ireland.

Harold, the son of Godred Don, now assumed the title of king, and banished many of the chief inhabitants: [1250]—but, having received and obeyed an order to go to Norway, he was imprisoned by the king of that nation for his usurpation of the government.

1252.]—Magnus, the son of Olave was the next king of Man and the Isles, under the sanction of the Norwegian monarch. [1256.]—On a visit to the English court he was knighted by the king. [1265.]—He died at Rushen castle in 1265, and was there buried.

1266.]—Magnus, king of Norway, finding himself unable to retain the sovereignty of the western isles, agreed to surrender them to Alexander the third, king of Scotland, on receiving from him four thousand marks of silver immediately, and one hundred marks a year in future.

Not long afterwards Alexander reduced the Isle of Man, and made this treaty with Regulus,

a man whom he had appointed king over it: that Alexander should defend the country from all foreign enemies, and that Regulus should furnish Scotland, when required, with ten ships.

1304.]—John Waldebeof, a great-grandson of king Reginald, thinking himself entitled to the Isle of Man, preferred his claim before Edward the First of England, as lord-paramount over the king of Scotland. But he received no other answer than that he might prosecute his claim before the justices of the king's bench, and have justice done him.

What Waldebeof could not effect by right, William de Montacute, another descendant of Reginald, accomplished by arms. With a body of English troops, hastily collected, he drove all the Scots out of the island: but having contracted a considerable debt for this war, and being unable to discharge it, he mortgaged the island and its revenues for seven years to Anthony Bec, bishop of Durham and patriarch of Jerusalem, to whom the king afterwards gave it for life.

1307.]—King Edward the Second bestowed this island upon Piers Gaveston, when he created him Earl of Cornwall: and, on his death, upon

**356 *From the Conquest of Godred Crovan,***

**Henry Beaumont, "with all the demesnes and royal jurisdiction."**

The Scots, under Robert Bruce, afterwards recovered it, and retained it in their possession till the year 1340, when William de Montacute, the younger, earl of Salisbury, under the sanction of Edward the Third wrested it from that nation, and according to Walshingham, sold it to William Scroop. This nobleman being executed for high treason, and his estates being confiscated, the Isle of Man reverted to the crown of England, and was granted by Henry the Fourth to Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, on condition that he and his posterity, at the coronation of the kings of England, should bear the sword, worn by that monarch on his return from France in 1399.

1403.]—Henry Percy was attainted four years afterwards, and though subsequently restored in blood, and to his estates in England, the Isle of Man was permanently forfeited, and given, with the patronage of the Bishopric and all other ecclesiastical benefices, to William Stanley and his heirs, afterwards earl of Derby, to be held by liege homage, and the service of rendering to the English monarchs two falcons on their coronation.

If at this time the dependence of the Manks nation was confirmed, the inhabitants became more secure in their possessions and less apprehensive of contending factions at home, or enemies abroad.

The royalties and revenues of Man descended regularly, and without molestation, from ancestor to heir till the time of William, the sixth earl of Derby, against whose title some objections were started and legally removed. To put the matter beyond all doubt, William obtained from James I. a new grant of the Isle of Man which was confirmed by act of parliament.

This island was one of the last places which yielded to the authority of Cromwell. General Ireton proposed to James, earl of Derby, on the part of the parliament, the repossession of his estates in England provided he would surrender the Isle of Man: but this proposal the earl treated with the greatest indignation, and declared his determination to hang any future messenger from that quarter. The earl, being taken prisoner in England, was executed at Bolton, October 15, 1651, and the defence of the Isle of Man was undertaken by his lady. The countess possessed enthusiasm equal to her husband's, and



determined to defend Castle Rushen, to which she had retired, to the last extremity : but Christian, in whom she confided, and who had the command of the Manks forces, deeming hers a hopeless cause, capitulated to Colonels Birch and Duckenfield, who with ten armed vessels, had invaded the island. The Isle of Man was granted by the parliament to lord Fairfax ; but on the accession of Charles the Second was restored to the earl of Derby, son of him who had been beheaded. Christian was found guilty of treason, and executed in Man.

In this family it continued till 1735, at which time James, earl of Derby, died without issue, and the inheritance devolved upon James, second duke of Athol, who was descended from Lady Amelia Sophia, the youngest daughter of the seventh earl of Derby.

John, the last of this family who enjoyed the royalties of Man, inherited by descent the dukedom of Athol ; and obtained by his marriage with the daughter of the late duke the kingdom of Man.

This duke and his duchess, as we have already seen, sold to the king of England, in 1765, the regalities and revenues of Man.

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THE END.

CORRIGENDA.

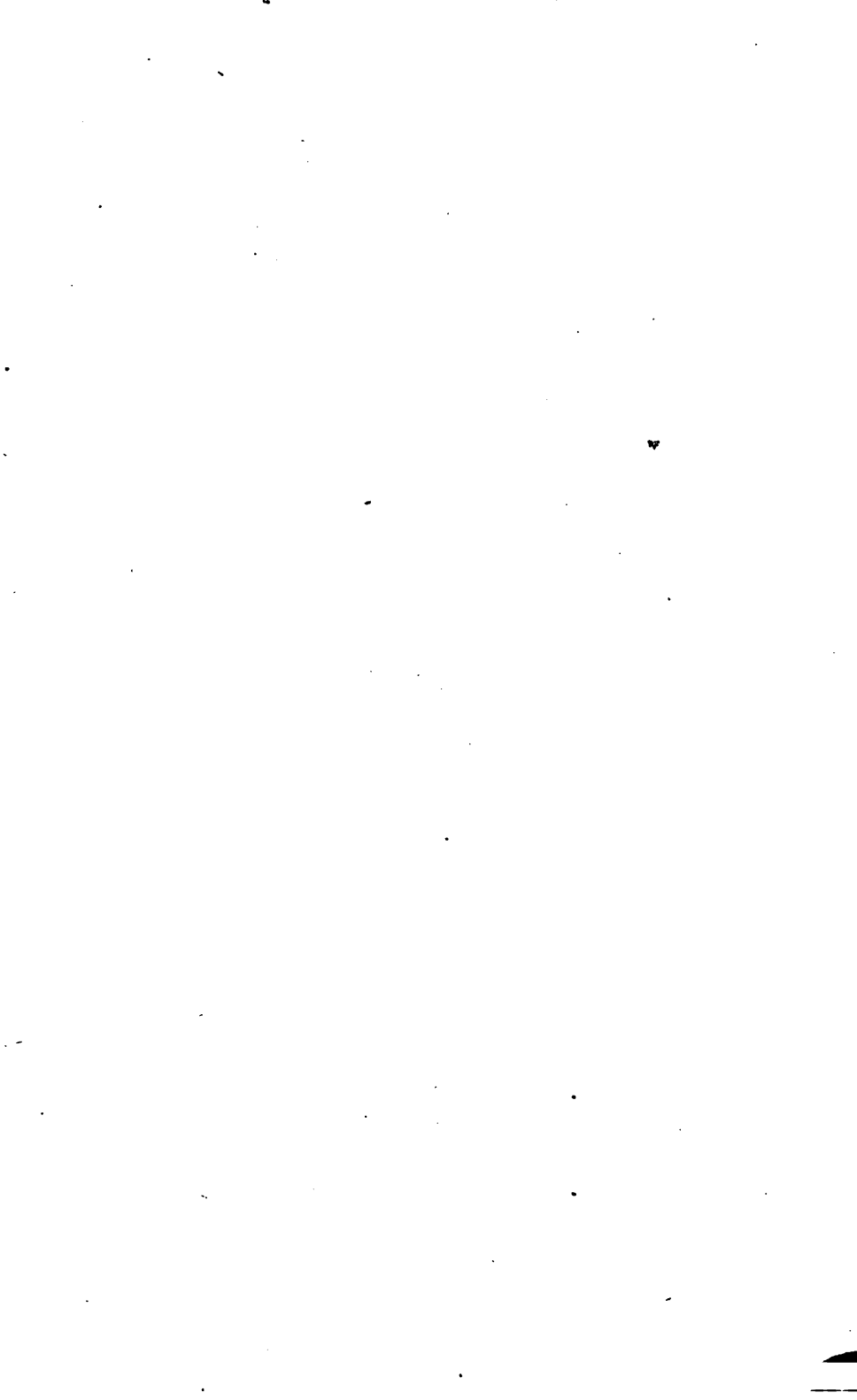
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## CORRIGENDA.

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Page	line	
17	8	<i>For</i> Cullin <i>read</i> Crellin.
24		At the bottom, as a note to line 15, <i>read</i> , For these names, as the birds which they represent met our view, I was indebted to my companion of the tour, a Cambrian gentleman.
27	14	<i>Instead of</i> species of <i>Mollusa read</i> animals of the division <i>Mollusa</i> , among these.
74	11	<i>For</i> existence <i>read</i> emigration.
75	15	<i>For</i> their <i>read</i> its.
78	15	<i>For</i> were <i>read</i> was.
79	15	<i>For</i> fallen <i>read</i> falling.
91	5	<i>For</i> which <i>read</i> who.
100	7	<i>Before</i> thinly <i>read</i> many.
—	27	<i>After</i> would <i>read</i> perhaps.
109	18	<i>For</i> from <i>read</i> at.
120	24	<i>For</i> Ruthen <i>read</i> Ruben.
127	14	and wherever else the word occurs, <i>for</i> Ony <i>read</i> Orry.
136	7	<i>For</i> the <i>read</i> this.
140	5	<i>For</i> near <i>read</i> nearly.
156	26	<i>After</i> Grese <i>read</i> whose miraculous stories I have followed : and.
160	1	<i>For</i> record <i>read</i> records.
167	8	<i>For</i> Jurly, wherever it occurs, <i>read</i> Jurby.
169	13	<i>For</i> Selly <i>read</i> Selby.
207	4	<i>After</i> that <i>read</i> the.
234	16	<i>After</i> Barons' <i>read</i> and.
242	1	<i>For</i> bishops <i>read</i> bishop
246	7	<i>Instead of</i> of the age <i>read</i> under the age.
248	23	<i>After</i> sisters <i>read</i> being excluded.
270	—	Erase the last paragraph, beginning "The courts," and ending "people," and for the same, see page 292.
277	5	<i>For</i> ordered <i>read</i> worded.
—	6	<i>For</i> Mona <i>read</i> Monæ.
327	4	<i>For</i> history <i>read</i> histories.
334	11	<i>For</i> Manis <i>read</i> Mannis.
—	15	The quotation is incorrect, erase it.
336	5	<i>For</i> fugives <i>read</i> fugitives.





A  
**COMPLETE HISTORY**  
OF  
**THE ISLE OF MAN:**  
CONTAINING  
*The Situation and Geographical Description thereof,*  
THE ECCLESIASTICAL AND CIVIL HISTORIES,  
THE  
WHOLE ORDER OF THE GOVERNMENTS  
FROM THE EARLIEST ACCOUNTS,  
**THE NATURE OF THE SOIL,**  
THE  
PRODUCE OF THE COUNTRY AND THE NEIGHBOURING SEA,  
*The Number of Inhabitants,*  
**AND DESCRIPTION OF THEIR TRADE;**  
WITH  
A particular Account of its Purchase from the DUKE of ATHOL, by the  
Government, under the reign of GEORGE III.



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1821.



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A  
**HISTORY**  
OF  
**THE ISLE OF MAN.**



THE  
*INTRODUCTION.*

**T**HIS island appears but little, or but darkly known to the ancients; and amongst all our modern historians and geographers there is not one has given any tolerable account of it before Mr. James Challoner, Governor for the Lord Fairfax, and the great and learned Mr. Blundell, of Crosby, who prudently retired thither during the time of the usurpation, whereby he preserved his person in peace and security, and his estate from all manner of depredation. This gentleman being a person of polite learning, employed his leisure hours in collecting the History and Antiquities of the Isle of Man; and by his manuscripts, which I have seen, gave posterity the clearest and most correct account thereof.

But as to the rest of our English historians, few of them, especially the ancients, so much as mention it. Mr. Cambden indeed is the first that gives us any light or insight into it; after him the great Lord Cook and Doctor Heylin; but they all abound with so many errors and mistakes, that it is very unsafe and uncertain adhering to any of them.

Having said this, give me leave to observe what natural



misfortunes this country is said to labour under, which I am informed, and apprehend from some of its natives, is frequent penury, and want of many necessities of life, occasioned by a thin unfertile soil, requiring more experience, labour, and manure, than the inhabitants in general are qualified to bestow upon it; for though there are few here that can be properly said to be rich, so neither are there many can be esteemed miserably poor. But were they so happy as to have the encouragement of some manufactures, and a more extensive trade of their own product, the country would not only be improved, but grow rich, and able to supply themselves by their own labour and product.

It is true they want many necessities for the common service of life, as timber, salt, wrought iron, and coals, &c. But with all these they might be easily supplied by the countries round them, had they equal products to give in exchange, or indeed were there a herring fishery as certain and plentiful as formerly, it would supply all these wants, and to spare. But as blessings of this nature very much depend upon proper seasons and the bounty of heaven, they must pray for the one, and patiently wait for the other; and with thankful hearts and virtuous lives endeavour to merit those favours.

As I have given you the common, or rather accidental wants and misfortunes of this little part of the globe, I cannot but in justice show the blessings and advantages it enjoys beyond all the nations round about it.

The first whereof is a perfect unanimity in matters of religion, strictly conformable to the doctrine and discipline of the church of England by law established.

The next after this is the rectitude and goodness of their laws, so wisely formed, and so admirably adapted to their constitution, that the great Lord Coke saith, "that the Isle of Man hath such laws as are not to be found in any other place."

Every man there pleads his own cause, without council or attorney, or any person who gains by encouraging strife. All chancery business is ended in twelve or fourteen weeks, to wit. Four court days, matters of common law are something more dilatory by reason court days come but twice a year; but the ease of the government, and every man's interest, draws all suits and controversies to as speedy a conclusion as can possibly be contrived.

There is in this little world, besides this happiness, an universal plenty and cheapness in all seasonable times, which makes it the resort of many people in distress and low life. Their own ale has been long esteemed of equal goodness to any of its neighbours; their importations by themselves or strangers, of wine, brandy, rum, sugar, fruit, lemons, silks, velvets, coffee, tea, and china ware, are very large. And could they be once favoured with the exportation of them to their neighbouring nations, upon a just duty, and proper and well regulated conditions, England and its neighbouring friends would, in the opinions of experienced persons, be better supplied, and with less hazard to our manufactures, and more advantage of his majesty's revenue.

But he that as it will, as God has been pleased to give them plenty, he hath also given them hearts to enjoy it. The people are naturally of a cheerful, sociable, and debonaire temper, much inclined to music and freedom among themselves, very loving, but a little choleric. They were formerly reputed courageous, and eminent for many excellent military commanders, as will appear more fully from the history, as likewise the respect their kings had among foreign princes, of which Macon (not to mention more) was a most remarkable instance.

But above all, they have been famous for their hospitality to strangers, as great numbers of English in the late civil wars, and many thousand of Irish Protestants, in these late devastations of that kingdom, in 1689, can witness.

Nor were they less famous in former ages for sheltering distressed princes, of which I will venture to give my reader one instance.

Eugenius, when prince of Scotland, took sanctuary in the island for nine years, and was afterwards recalled by the nobility and people, and crowned King of Scotland: to omit Ederias, and Corbred, surnamed Gald, from his travelling and learning, who were educated in this island, even before Christianity; for it is not improbable these princes might choose the Isle of Man for their retreat, because it was then and many ages after accounted the only seat of learning under the Druids, nor was it less remarkable under their first pious bishops.

Hector Boetius says, Man was the fountain of all honest learning and erudition; others of the Scotch nation tell it was the mansion of the muses, and the royal academy for educating the heirs apparent to the crown of Scotland, as Eugenius the Third himself, who likewise sent three of his sons, to wit, Ferguard, Fiacre, and Donald, into the Isle of Man, to be educated under Couranus, whom they write Bishop of Sedor; two of which sons, Ferguard and Donald, were successively Kings of Scotland, as both Hector Boetius and Hollinshead can witness; who likewise inform us, that even before this Couranus, (by Doctor Heylin writ Goran,) ordered that the three sons of his brother Congel, to wit, Eugenius the Second, Congatus the Third, and Kinatellus the First, should be brought up in the Isle of Man, says Boetius, under the government of certain instructors and schoolmasters, to be trained up in learning and virtuous discipline, according to an ancient ordinance thereof made and enacted. So celebrated was the discipline of those ages, that it seems to have passed into a law, that the princes of Scotland should be educated in this island.

Having thus far shown wherein the ancient honour of this island consisted, I think it proper my reader should

know that it had formerly an order of nobility, for I find both earls and viscounts mentioned, but especially barons, who I conceive were the governors of the out Isles. In those days the Comes were the first magistrate in the country, and the Vice Comes his substitute; but of latter ages they have been appropriated as marks of honour to particular families.

There were likewise formerly several ecclesiastical barons in this isle, as the Abbot of Rushen, and the Abbot of Furness, and the Bishop of Man, who still retains that honourable title, and in regard thereof is to hold the lord's stirrup, when he mounts his steed, at the Tinwald.

But because those pious foundations lie buried in their own ruins, I shall crown my work with what is esteemed the greatest glory this world affords, viz. That it was a kingdom, if you will take the words of my Lord Cook: The ancient and absolute kingdom of Man, in Calvin's Case, Lib. 7, Chap. 21. Though since it fell under the homage of the crown of England, it was never granted but by the title of the Island and Lordship of Man, except to Sir John Stanley, who is styled King and Lord of Man, in their records as before-mentioned; so that it pretended to no such absolute dominion, for allegiance to the crown of England was reserved in all public oaths.

Not but that it still retains most of the essential marks and insignia of regal power, as making laws for its own government, of pardoning criminals, of holding courts in the lord's name, the patronage of the bishopric, the admiral of those seas, the coinage of money, and many other inferior articles of regality; which as they were derived from the favour of the crown to the house of Derby, so the constant and uninterrupted loyalty of that noble house may be justly esteemed to have deserved it, especially since they have managed that great trust and power with so much tenderness and care of the people under them, by which they have stood as lasting examples to all in power,

and transmitted to the remembrance of all posterity, that by their care, vigilance, and justice, there is one little spot of earth in the world where law, justice and equity, true religion and primitive integrity, have long done, and still do flourish, in contempt of faction, sedition, contention, want or division, or whatever else the world calls miseries and misfortunes.

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## DESCRIPTION

OF

## THE ISLE OF MAN.



**T**HE Isle of Man hath been called or known by diverse names amongst ancient writers. By Cæsar it was called *Mona*, and is still so styled in their own records from all antiquity; by Ptolomy, and by Pliny, *Menada*; by Secunda Ninus, *Eubonia*; by the Britons, *Menaw*; by the natives, *Manning*; and by the English, the *Isle of Man*.

The length of the isle from north to south is more than thirty miles, and the breadth between eight and ten. It lies between 55 and 56 degrees of northern latitude, and 16 degrees of longitude. Castletown seems to be in the same parallel with York. A certain author says, it is placed in the navel of the sea; and in truth it seems to be the centre of the king of Great Britain's dominions, as it is almost equally distant in the north from Galloway, in Scotland; in the west, from Ulster, in Ireland; in the east from Cumberland; and in the south from Anglesa.

The Isle of Man lying nearer to the counties of Lancaster and Cumberlând, than to any other of England, the inhabitants very much follow and partake of the customs and usage of those counties, especially Lancaster, with whom they have a constant trade for their cattle and other produce of the island, and in return supply themselves with salt, and all other necessities wanting there. They have a natural respect for the people of Lancashire; whether it arise from their lord's usual residence in that county, or their being mostly supplied with their principal officers from thence, as governors, bishops, archdeacons, and many others of less note, I know not; but they have such an esteem for the people of that county, that it is a common maxim with them, that a good Lancashire Justice of the Peace generally makes the best Governor of the Isle of Man.

This island was many ages governed by its own kings, natives of the place; but through a long descent, and great variety of changes in the government, it is rendered too difficult to be pursued in a lineal and regular manner without many and long digressions; and as I conceive, it would appear more like a needless curiosity than of any service or useful information to the reader, therefore I shall neither give him nor myself more trouble than is needful on that head, to introduce the description and history of that island more clear and intelligible.

Beginning first with King Olave, the third son of Goddard Crownan, whose family had long reigned in the island, which was styled the kingdom of the isles, as will appear more fully in the sequel hereof. This young gentleman being greatly oppressed and harrassed by the more powerful kings of Norway, Denmark, Scotland, and Ireland, applied himself to Henry I. King of England, and offered him the kingdom of the isles. He was then a prince in the flower of his youth, peaceable, just, and liberal, but especially to the church, and therefore pious.

He assumed the government anno 1102, and by his princely address and prudent negotiations procured the King of England for his patron, and by that king's intercession the Kings of Scotland and Ireland for his confederates; so that having nothing to fear from abroad, he applied himself to public works of mercy and piety at home.

First, by reforming the laws and the manners of his subjects. And wisely weighing that religion and good education greatly soften the temper and actions of a brutish and vicious people, for that purpose, in the year 1134, he gave the abbey of Rushen to Evan, Abbess of Furness, to serve as a nursery to the church; and hence it is that the Abbets of Furness had the approbation of the Abbot of Rushen, and some believe the right of electing the bishop himself, and a sort of chapter to his diocess.

Olave having thus laid the ground-work of his establishment, greatly endowed the whole church of the isles with large franchises, liberty, and immunities; the revenue of which was set out from the most ancient and apostolic manner, to wit, one third of all the tythes to the bishop for his maintenance; the second to the abbey, for the education of youth, and relief of the poor, (for those good monks were then the public almoners, and by their own labours rather increased than diminished the public charity;) the third portion of the tythes was given to the parochial priests for their subsistence.

Olave having spent near four years in all the calm enjoyments of peace and plenty, at last resolved to visit the King of Norway, and in the year 1142 did homage to Hengo, King of Norway, by whom he was honourably received, and before his departure crowned King of the Isles. He left his son Goddard to be educated in the Norwegian court, and then returned to Man, where he found the long peaceable course of his affairs quite altered; for the three sons of his brother Harold, who had been educated in Dublin, raised great forces, and demanded one

moety of the kingdom of the isles. Olave desired time to consider of it, and on the day appointed to receive his answer, the principal persons on both sides met at Ramsey, where both sides being drawn up in lines opposite to each other, Reginald, one of the brothers, standing in the middle, as talking to some principal persons, being called by the king, turned himself of a sudden, as if he designed to salute him, but at the same time lifted up his battle-axe, and at one blow cut off his head. The nobility depending upon Olave, being all dispersed or slain, Reginald divided the country among his own followers.

Olave left by his wife Affrica, daughter of Fergus, Lord of Galloway, one son, who succeeded him.

The sons of Harrold, flushed with this success, had thoughts of conquering all before them. Immediately therefore they transported their forces into Galloway; but the people there behaved with such bravery and resolution, that they quickly forced them to return with shame and confusion, into Man, where they exercised all the cruelties upon the men of Galloway that shame, disappointment, and revenge could invent. But the justice of heaven suffered not so many villanies to go long unpunished; for, in the year 1143, Goddard, the son of good King Olave, returned from Norway, to whom the whole island immediately submitted. Upon which he ordered two of the sons of Harrold to lose their eyes, and the third, who had murdered his father, he caused to be executed. And having by these acts of justice cleared his way to the crown, by the unanimous and hearty consent of all the people he assumed the government.

Goddard was then in the flower of his youth, brave, active, and generous, with the mein and stature of a hero, and polished by education in a foreign court; all which, joined to the merit of an excellent father, attracted the hearts not only of his own people but of strangers also; and all the neighbouring provinces admired and envied



the happiness of the Manx nation, and every one wished for a king like theirs.

But as all human affairs are subject to frequent changes and unforeseen accidents in life, and the most moderate and prudent government in the world is not secure from faction and sedition at home, as well as enemies abroad, so it fell out with this good king; for one Thorfinus, the son of Otter, at that time the principal of all the natives, having been dispossessed of some lands he had a pretence to, and denied some favours he expected, grew a mal-content, and setting up for a patriot gained to his party several factious and seditious subjects; and by their aid, and such others as he could bring into his way of thinking, designed to work his own private revenge.

He therefore goes into Argyle to Summerled, who had married a daughter of good King Olave's, and persuaded him to make his son Dulgall king of the isles, in right of his mother. Summerled, being a prince of a hot, enterprising, and ambitious temper, embraced the proposal; and Thorfinus, by his own influence and persuasion, brought several of the western islands under his obedience. However the majority of the people as yet adhered to their lawful king; among these was one Paul, a person of great loyalty, interest, and virtue, who gave Goddard notice of all Thorfinus's projects, and Summerled's preparations.

Upon which the king equips eighty ships, and in the year 1156 a bloody battle was fought at sea, where both sides wearied with the slaughter made, and the victory still doubtful, the two generals agreed to divide the kingdom of the isles, by which all the northern fell to the son of Summerled. But he, not contented with a moiety, in the year 1158 came into Man with fifty-eight ships, and the people, either weary of the war, or the misconduct and unkind usage of their prince, all submitted to him; so that Goddard, by letting a discontented people slip from him, now found himself no more a king, but forsaken and slighted

by all, especially by those who had been the instruments of his severity and misconduct, and found no safer way to make their court to their new master, than by exposing the old, agreeable to that stated maxim, that he that will do ill to please his prince, will certainly do the same against him, when it appears his interest and advantage in so doing. Whilst these things were transacting, the de-throned King Goddard found means to escape into Norway, there to reserve himself to his better fortune. A lively instance of indolence and neglect, which presently degenerate into violence and unwarrantable measures, by which the gaining of a crown may sometimes forfeit the virtue which renders a man worthy of it.

Summered, flushed with these petty victories, set no bounds to his ambition, but in the year 1164 raised a fleet of a hundred and sixty sail, with a resolution to master all Scotland; but, attempting to land his men at Rheinfers, was conquered by a few, himself and his son slain, with most of his people. The people were glad to be thus delivered; for they found, by dear bought experience, a sensible difference betwixt a passionate and misguided prince, and a real tyrant.

Every one now began to think of Goddard, their exiled king, whose six years' absence, and his own generous qualities, had blotted out the errors and mistakes of his youth and former government; so that all the hearts of the people inclined to his restoration.

At which time Reginald, his bastard brother, had gathered and armed a multitude of loose fellows of different nations, resolving with them to carry the kingdom of the isles.

The Manxmen stoutly defended their king's cause. The battle was fought at Ramsey, and the people lost the day by the treachery of a certain count, who probably dreaded Goddard's revenge upon him; but Goddard being truly informed of the island's good intention towards him, landed

the fourth day after the battle with a powerful assistance from the king of Norway. The people received him with joy, all former errors were mutually forgot, and Reginald was seized, and his eyes put out; and all those who might render the succession disputable were stripped of all power. From this time Goddard began to settle his affairs with prudence, gentleness, and moderation; and Macloren, son of Maccartack, King of Ireland, gave him his daughter Fingala to wife, by whom he had a son named Olave.

The year following the king took a progress through the isles, to settle the confused state of affairs there. During his absence, Emoreal, one of the blood-royal, attempting some novelty, brought a great multitude to the Isle of Man, who at first dispersed some few that guarded the coasts; but, the same day, the Manxmen rallied their whole force, and slew him and all his followers; and thus the king continued composing and settling the affairs of his government till the year 1187, in which he died, on the ninth of September, in a good old age.

This prince had tried both extremes of government, first ruined by success, and the ill conduct of his youth; but being made wiser by afflictions and experience, became a fortunate and happy prince.

This prince left three sons, Reginald, Olave, and Ivar, and appointed Olave his successor, because born in lawful wedlock; but Olave being then but a minor, the Manxmen sent for the eldest son Reginald out of the isles, and made him king, anno 1188.

Reginald was then of a ripe age, endowed with great qualities, as wit, courage, and resolution, mixed with craft, dissimulation, and revenge, which added to the natural injustice to his brother Olave, rendered his reign, though long, unhappy. Reginald, in the sixth year of King John of England, had done his homage for the Isle of Man, for which the king granted him a knight's fee in Ireland, and his protection, *pro feod and servitio suo*, says the record.

Reginald being at this time absent in Ireland, with all his forces, and all his principal officers, by which the people of the island had been great sufferers, began to think of their injustice to Olave their lawful prince, then in the vigour of his age, and master of all those refined qualities that render princes agreeable to their people, or men to one another; mild, just, sedate, pious, and liberal; to which was added, an admirable symmetry of body, which rendered him the darling of the ladies, who by their interest at home sometimes make the strongest abroad.

Reginald, returning into Man, and viewing the desolation of his country during his absence, and at the same time perceiving the lost affections of his people, resolved to remove his brother Olave, the idol of their hearts, out of his way; but not finding it safe to do it by open violence, he caused him to be seized and sent to William, King of Scotland, where he was kept in chains seven years, at the end of which, King William dying, was succeeded by his son Alexander, who at his coronation ordered all the prisoners to be released, among whom was Olave, who speedily returned to the Isle of Man, well attended by the nobility, and good wishes of the people, and presented himself to his brother Reginald, who received him with all apparent affection, and married him to the Lord of Cantyre's daughter, named Lavon, and sister to his own queen, but gave them nothing but the islands called the Lewis's, which necessity compelled Olave to accept of, since he could get no better. But coming into the Lewis's he found them barren, and altogether insufficient to support him and his retinue; therefore, urged on by despair, necessity, and justice, but more than all by the Viscount Skey, he resolved to push his good fortune to the utmost, and taking hostages of all the great men of the isles, set sail in the year 1215, with thirty ships, and landed in the Isle of Man; but the nobility and people interposing, the brothers came to an agreement, and divided the kingdom of the

isles betwixt them, of which Reginald, besides his moiety, had the Isle of Man allotted him.

Olave having refreshed his men, returned to his part of the isles. But Reginald, greatly regretting to be dispossessed of above a hundred isles, that he had been so long master of, sent to Allen, Lord of Galloway, for assistance, and the year following sailed into the out isles, with a design to dispossess his brother Olave; but the people absolutely refusing to fight against their natural prince, obliged him to return home without effecting any thing.

Reginald, restless and impatient with this second disappointment, pretends a necessity of a journey to England. The people cheerfully supplied him with a hundred marks towards his journey; but instead of going to England, he carried his daughter into Galloway, and married her to the son of that lord. But as nothing discontents a people more than the misapplication of public generosity, especially when they see themselves imposed upon, and betrayed to a foreign power, considering with indignation the ingratitude of Reginald, and their own injustice to their lawful prince, they by universal suffrage sent for Olave, and declared him king, in the year 1218. Reginald, seeing his error, though too late, resolves in good earnest on a voyage to the court of King John.

It is certain, as we have observed, that King John, in the sixth year of his reign, took Reginald, King of Man, into his protection, and granted him one knight's fee in Ireland; and also granted him one hundred quarters of corn, to be delivered at Drogheda, on the 28th of May, Anno Reg. sui 14. Anno Dom. 1212.

And King Henry III. Anno Reg. sui 2do. Anno Dom. 1219, granted to Reginald, King of Man, letters of safe conduct to come to England, and do him homage, &c.

And in the fifth year of his reign, 1221, the same king writes to his justice in Ireland, the fourth of November,

to deliver to Reginald, King of Man, his knight's fee, two tons of wine, and one hundred and twenty quarters of corn, granted him every year, by the charter of King John his father.

Now if it be allowable to compare so small a prince with an English monarch, there never was a nearer resemblance than in the fortunes of these two; both had obtained their government by injustice to the lawful heirs, both lost it by their ill treatment of the people, both of mischievous designing tempers, and both lived to feel the effects thereof on their own heads: only in this they differ,—John had offended the clergy, and Reginald his people. John had, some years before, made the most infamous submission to the pope that was ever heard of in story; Reginald, to complete the similitude, must do the like, either because it was the fashion, or that he could hope for no assistance without it.



THE

**ACT OF SURRENDER**

MADE BY

**REGINALD, TO THE SEE OF ROME.**

Reginaldus, Rex Insulæ Man, constituit se vasallum sedis Romanæ, et ex insula sua facit feudum oblatam, Londini 10. Cal. October, 1219.

**SANCTISSIMO** Patri et Domino Honorio Dei gratia summo Pontifici, Reginaldus, Rex Insularum, commendationem cum osculo pedum. Noverit sancta Paternitas vestra, quod nos, ut participes simus honorem quæ fuit in Ecclesia Rom. juxta admonitionem, et exortationem dilecti patris Domini P. Norwicen electi, Camerarij et Legati vestri, dedimus et obtulimus nomine Ecclesia Romana, et vestro, et Catholicorum vestrorum successorum, Insulam nostrum de Man, quæ ad nos jure hereditario pertinet, et de quæ nulli tenemur aliquod servitium facere, et deinceps nos, et hæredes nostri in perpetuum tenebimus, in feudum dictam insulam ab Ecclesia Romana, et faciemus ei per hoc homagium et fidelitatem, et in recognitionem dominij, nemine census nos et hæredes nostri in perpetuum annuatim solvemus Ecclesia Romana duodecim marcas sterlingum in Anglia apud Abbatiam de Furnes Cisterciensis Ordinis in festo purificationis B. V. Mariæ. Et si non esset ibi aliquis ex parte vestra vel successorum vestrorum, deponentur dictæ duodecim marchæ per nos et hæredes nostros penes Abbatem et Conventum, Ecclesia Romana

nomine. Hanc donationem, et oblationem dictus Dominus Legatus recipit ad voluntatem et bene placitum vestrum, et post receptionem factum ab eo sic ipse Dominus Legatus dictam insulam dedit mihi, et hæredibus meis in feudum perpetua possidendam et tenendam nomine Ecclesia Rom. et me inde per annulum aureum investivit, &c. Actum Lond. in domo militiæ templi 10 Kal. Octob. An. Dom. Millesimo, ducentesimo, decimo nono. Et ne super his aliquando possit dubitari, has literas fieri fecimus et sigillo nostro muniri.

- Codex juris Gentium Diplomaticus per Godefridum Gulielmum Liebnitzium, impressus Hanoveræ 1693, folprodomus, page 5.

Reginald, King of the Isle of Man, constitutes himself a Vassal of the See of Rome, and of his island makes the offered Grant, at London, 22nd of September, 1219.

**T**O the most Holy Father and Lord Honerius, by the grace of God supreme Pontiff, Reginald, King of the Isles, kisseth his feet, and sendeth greeting. Be it known to your Holy Paternity, that we, as being partakers of the benefits derived from those things that are done in the Roman church, according to the admonition and exhortation of the beloved Father in God, Peter, Lord Bishop of Norwich, Elect Chamberlain and Apostolic Legate, have given and offered in the name of the church of Rome, and your's, and of your Catholic successors, our Island of Man, which belongs to us by right of inheritance, and for which we are not bound to do service to any; and henceforwards we and our heirs for ever will hold the said island as a grant from the church of Rome, and will do homage and fealty to it. And as a recognition of dominion, in the name of a tribute, we and our heirs for ever will pay



annually to the church of Rome twelve marks sterling in England, at the Abbey of Farnoss, of the Cistercian Order, upon the feast of the Purification of the B. V. Mary. And if there should not be any person there on the behalf of you or your successors, the said twelve marks shall be deposited by us and our heirs with the Abbot and Convent, in the name of the church of Rome. This grant and oblation the said Lord Legate accepts, according to your will and pleasure; and after acceptance so made by him, he the said Lord Legate gave to me and my heirs the said island, to be possessed and held in fee for ever, in the name of the church of Rome; and thereupon invested me therewith by a ring of gold, &c. Done at London, in the house of the Knights Templars, the 22nd of September, Anno 1219; and that no doubt may remain concerning the premises, we have caused this instrument to be made and sealed with our seal.

Vid. *Codice juris Gentium Diplomaticus per Godefridum Gulielmum Liebnitium, impressus Hanoveriæ 1693, fol. Prodromus, page 4.*

✓ Whilst Reginald by this infamous surrender was endeavouring to recover his lost estate, his brother Olave, for above two years, enjoyed an undisturbed possession in the government of the Isles, till at last compelled by the disorder of affairs to visit the remote parts of his scattered kingdom, and being well affected by the nobility and soldiery, he left the Isle of Man exposed to the fury of his brother Reginald, who upon this occasion embraced the opportunity, by returning from London; and, by the assistance of Allen, Lord of Galloway, and Thomas Earl of Athol, landed a great army in the Isle of Man, with which he laid the whole south side waste, murdering all the men they met, burning even the very churches, and committing all the inhumanities a tyrant, heated by resentment and

revenge, could invent. Till at last, glutted with so much barbarity, or perhaps apprehending his brother Olave's return, he drew off his forces, and Allen, Lord of Galloway, left his bailiffs to collect the revenue; but Olave speedily returning, drove away those collectors, and used all possible means to recal such as had escaped the fury of Reginald, so that the country began to be repeopled, and the natives to settle themselves in peace and security.

But the ambitious spirit of Reginald rested not here, for the same year, in the midst of winter, and in the dead of the night, Reginald, accompanied by the Lord of Galloway, landed a second time, and by his plausible insinuations debauched the whole southern division to his service. Of so mutable a nature are the vulgar, that those very people that had been just before so harassed by burning their houses, murdering their kindred and relations, now publicly take arms in his defence.

King Olave flies for protection to the men of the northern division, who unanimously resolve to defend him and his cause; whereupon the two brothers engage in battle, at the place called the Tinwald, the public field of council and of arms. Reginald lost the day, and was slain in the heat of the action; and thus fell that restless and ambitious soul, who for above thirty years had disquieted himself and his people. His body was carried by the monks of Rushen to the Abbey of Farness, and buried in a place formerly chosen by himself.

Olave now hoping to enjoy all the fruits of his labours, and the rights justly due to him, resolves on a voyage to Norway, anno 1220; where, during the contest between the two brothers, the accustomed respect had not been paid, which occasioned the king of Norway to appoint a nobleman, one Heushack, to be king of the Isles, and gave him his own name, Haco, who on his arrival there was slain in storming a certain castle in the Isle of Buta, and never reached the Isle of Man.

Upon this Olave returning into the Isle of Man, brought with him Goddard, the son of his late brother Reginald; and by the consent of the people the isles were divided betwixt them, as a means to preserve a future tranquillity in both. Olave had Man allotted to him. Goddard, going to his share, was slain in the Lewis's, by which the whole kingdom of the isles devolved upon Olave, who for the better security thereof resolved to apply to the court of England; and in the year 1236 obtained from King Henry III. letters of safe conduct for Olave, King of Man, to come to him, to treat with him on business of moment; and being come to King Henry, he the same year gave him his commission, with forty marks, one hundred quarters of corn, and five tons of wine, for his homage and defence of the sea coasts, as long as he shall faithfully perform that service, which he enjoyed to the year 1287, the time of his death, which happened on the 18th of June that year, in Peel-Castle, in a good old age, greatly lamented by his people, as a prince worthy of better times, a better kingdom, and better subjects. He lies interred in the Abbey of Rushen, and was succeeded by his son Harold.

Harold was then about fourteen years of age, a youth of great hopes, and rare endowments both of body and mind; but before he was well settled in his new government, (led either by the necessity of his affairs, or a youthful curiosity) resolved on a progress through his whole kingdom, which consisted of near three hundred islands; but dispersed, and many degrees remote; and for the security and good of the island, he appointed one Logland, his cousin, to be his lieutenant, who probably did not execute that trust with the care and fidelity expected from him; of which the king being informed, sent the autumn following three sons of Neil, viz. Dufgall, Thergall, and Malemore, with his trusty friend one Joseph, to examine and consult about his affairs in the island, and report the conduct of Logland to him.

Upon this a general meeting was appointed the twenty-fifth day following, at the Tinwald, their usual place of assembling for public affairs; but one side accusing, and the other defending, instead of counsel and composing the differences then subsisting, they fell to arms, the shortest way of ending controversies in those days. Dufgall, Malemore, and Joseph, fell in the quarrel. Upon information whereof, the king, greatly incensed, returned into Man the spring following, and Logland justly apprehending his displeasure, attempted to fly into Wales with Goddard, a younger son of Olave, but suffered shipwreck in his passage, with the young prince and all his retinue.

The power of the kings of Norway to this time had been the terror of the northern parts of Europe; but Harold had not paid that personal attendance at that court as was expected, therefore that king, in the year 1238, sent Jospatrick, and Giles Christ, the son of M'Kerthanck, to seize the revenue of the island to his own use. But Harold the year following took a voyage into Norway, where he conducted himself with that prudence and discretion, that after two years stay he was restored to all the isles enjoyed by his ancestors, to him and his heirs and successors, under the broad seal of Norway.

Harold, now secure of the inheritance of his predecessors, in the year 1242 returned into Man, where he was received with the universal applause and good wishes of the people, which he endeavoured to improve by all those public diversions which render youthful princes agreeable to their subjects. But considering nothing secures a lasting happiness like peace abroad, he entered into a strict alliance with the neighbouring princes of Scotland and Ireland; and to secure himself of the good affection of the monarchy of England, he procured letters patent from Henry III. dated the thirty-first of his reign, by which he was permitted to come into England, where on his arrival he was welcomed with all the public compliments due to his character.

The king honoured him with the Order of Knighthood, which in those days was never conferred, but upon persons of high birth and merit. In all places he was entertained with a generosity natural to the English nation; and at last was nobly presented by the king. In the same year he returned to his own country, where good fortune was at once showering down all the blessings of this life upon his head.

He received an invitation into Norway, whither he went, attended by Lawrence, late Archdeacon, now Bishop elect of Man, with a numerous train of nobility and ladies, and there was married to the king's daughter; and after a long and noble entertainment, with all the festivity usual on such occasions, he returned to Man, but was unhappily driven upon the coast of Radland, in Wales, where he suffered shipwreck, and perished with his beautiful young queen, his bishop, and almost all his nobility, and the ladies her companions; a sad conviction, that the highest felicities this world affords are too often but a more solemn introduction to our ruin, which was unhappily verified as in himself, so in his brother and successor.

Reginald, his brother, assumed the government, Anno 1249, on the sixth of May; and the thirtieth of the same month was slain in the meadows near the Church of the Holy Trinity, commonly called Kirk-Christ Rushen; with all his party, by a knight called Ivar. Whether the cause of their quarrel was love or revenge is not mentioned, or whether he had assumed the government without the consent of the people we are not informed of by record, farther than that Reginald left one daughter very young, named Mary, who in the year 1292 claimed the kingdom of the Isles, and did homage to our King Edward I. in Perth, or St. John's town. And though we do not find in all the Norwegian line any pretence to a female succession, yet this gave ground for a plea, near four hundred years after, in which sentence was pronounced in favour of the heirs

general of Ferdinand, Earl of Derby, against his brother, Earl William, in the following case, wherein question was moved concerning the title to the Isle of Man, which by Queen Elizabeth was referred to the Lord Keeper Egerton, and divers Lords of the Council, and to three of the Judges of England, who in Trinity term, fortieth of Elizabeth, 1598, upon hearing of the counsel on both sides, and mature deliberation thereon, resolved on five points, viz,

First, That the Isle of Man was an ancient kingdom of itself, and no part of the kingdom of England. Secondly, They affirmed a case reported by Kelwin, the fourteenth of Henry VIII. to be law, to wit, Michl. fourteenth of Henry VIII. an office was found, that Thomas, Earl of Derby, at his death was seized of the Isle of Man in fee; whereupon the countess his wife, by her counsel, moved to have her dowry in the chancery: but it was resolved by Brudnel, Brook, and Fitzherbert, justices, and all the king's counsel, that the office was merely void, because the Isle of Man was no part of England, nor was governed by the laws of this land, but was like to Tourney in Normandy, or Gascoine in France, when they were in the King of England's hands, which were merely out of the power of the chancery, which was the place to endow the widows of the king's subjects, &c.

Thirdly, It was resolved by them that the statute of William II. *de josis conditionalibus*, nor the twenty-seventh of Henry VIII. of uses, nor the statutes of the thirty-second and thirty-fourth of Henry VIII. of William; nor any other general act of Parliament, did extend to the Isle of Man, for the causes aforesaid; but by special name an act of Parliament may extend to it.

Fourthly, It was resolved, that seeing no office could be found, to entitle the king to the forfeiture of treason, that the king might grant by commission under the great seal to seize the same into the king's hands, &c. which being

done and returned of record, is sufficient to bring it into the king's seizure and possession, and into charge, &c.

Fifthly, that the king might grant the same under the great seal, because he cannot grant it in any other manner; and herewith agreeth divers grants under the great seal of this isle.

Sixthly, it was resolved that a fee simple in this isle, passing by the letters patent to Sir John Stanley and his heirs, is descendible to his heirs according to the common law; for the grant itself by letters patent is warranted by the common law in this case; and therefore, if there be no other impediment, the isle in this case shall descend to the heirs general, and not to the heirs male, upon which this affair was afterwards settled by act of parliament, as aforesaid.

During the race of Goddard Crowman, three qualifications seemed requisite for the descent of the government, to wit, a male succession, the consent of the people, and the approbation of the King of Norway, who was then acknowledged for the sovereign; and where any of these were wanting, it generally proved fatal to the prince and people.

Olave had left a third son, named Magnus, who probably was not in the island at his brother's death; so that Harold, the son of Goddard Don, grandson of Reginald, for a time usurped the name of king, and dispossessed all the nobility, depending on the successors of Olave, of their employments and commands. But the King of Norway sent for him, and made him prisoner for his unjust intrusion; and in the year 1252 sent Magnus, the lawful heir, to the Isle of Man, who was chosen king by the universal consent of the people: but finding it unsafe to trust to that title only, he the next year went into Norway, where after two years attendance he was declared King of the Isles, and the title confirmed to him, his heirs, and successors, Anno 1254.

These little princes had a nice game to play, as they lay surrounded with so many potent states. The Kings of Norway began to decline, and the Scottish Kings, from whom these islands had been taken, to recover strength; so that during the last vacancy they designed to have recovered them, had not their king died in the midst of the preparation. The monarchy of England was now almost their only refuge; so in the year 1256, Magnus resolved on a voyage to that court, where he was honourably received by King Henry III. as his brother Harold had been some years before, and was knighted by that king, as the greatest compliment that could be paid to strangers by our monarchs in those days of chivalry.

In the year 1263, Aquinus, King of Norway, resolved to revenge the affront the Scottish nation had designed against him, and accordingly made a descent upon that kingdom, but was so warmly received by their new King Alexander, (a generous and active prince,) that he was forced to take shelter in the Orcades, where he died, at Kirkwall.

This was the last feeble effort of that nation, which had spread its arms over all Europe for five hundred years past. It hath given kings to England and Sicily, dukes to Normandy, and held the sovereignty of those isles for near two hundred years past; but the continual throwing off of such vast numbers of the natives had so weakened itself, that some time after it became subject to the more potent and growing kingdom of Denmark.

Thus nations have their periods as well as persons and families; and the most enterprising generally destroy themselves soonest by their own ambition. The little kingdom of Man, deprived of the protection of Norway, could not support itself much longer; for Magnus dying anno 1265, in his castle of Rushen, was buried in the Abbey church of St. Mary, which he finished and caused to be dedicated, and left no child behind him.



He was the ninth and last of the race of Goddard Crowman, who for two hundred years had enjoyed the name of king, though in effect little better than lieutenants to the crown of Norway, and their inheritance became an insensible addition to the kingdom of Scotland, which rather took away an evil than conferred a good; for though the addition of a neighbouring country may increase a territory, yet different laws, interest, and religion, rarely cement themselves into a well compacted or united state.

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THE

CONTINUATION

FROM THE SCOTCH CONQUEST

To the Settlement under the

HOUSE OF STANLEY.



**A**LEXANDER, King of Scotland, being informed of the death of Magnus, began to seize such of the out isles as lay most convenient for him, while the affairs of the little kingdom of Man were wholly distracted; but Magnus, King of Norway, son of Aquinus, thinking to apply some remedy to them, sent his chancellor into Scotland, with offers to surrender the Isle of Man and Bute, on condition he should peaceably enjoy the remainder. But Alexander bravely rejected the offer, with a protestation he

would win or lose them all; and in pursuance thereof began to reduce them singly with success. But during his engagement therein, a new commotion arose in the Isle of Man, which gave him some concern and uneasiness, as intending to unite the whole kingdom of the isles to that of Scotland, and apprehending little opposition from that of Man.

But the Manx History informs us, that the widow of the late King Magnus, a woman of a haughty and intriguing spirit, who by the death of Reginald had cleared her own way to the kingdom, and secretly in love with a certain knight who had slain Reginald, her late husband's brother, named Ivar, now thought him the fittest person to supply the vacancy, there being no lawful successor, except the daughter of Reginald, and she but a child. The danger from Scotland seemed pressing; but what will not love and the temptations of a crown persuade men to?

Ivar, then in the vigour of his age, gay, generous, and popular; the boldest, the bravest, and the best of all the natives; one that had virtues enough to save, and vices enough to ruin a nation; readily embraced the offer of his kind friend the widow, his mistress, who had entirely forgot all affection, as well as duty and allegiance, to her late husband's niece and legal successor the Princess Mary. Her pride, ambition and aspiring lewd temper could think of nothing less than a crown.

But the child Mary was so happy as to be left under the care and guard of just, sincere, and affectionate friends, who, whilst the widow and her bully, Ivar, were making their way to the government, took care to have Mary secretly conveyed into England, with all the public deeds and charters, equally fearing the danger she was in at home as well as from abroad; but, being got into safety, we will leave her for a while to attend and wait her good fortune.

In the interim, Ivar vigorously prepares for the defence

of his new kingdom, and at least resolves to deserve, if not enjoy the crown. But the Isle of Man could do little singly with the more potent kingdom of Scotland; for Alexander having now reduced all the out isles, sends a numerous army under Alexander Peasley and John Commin, who landed at Rannesway, now Derby Haven, in the year 1270. Ivar, though much inferior in number, (as being deprived of all assistance from abroad,) received them with a resolution natural to the Manx nation, and fought them stoutly, and as bravely fell with the expiring liberty of his country, and with him five hundred and thirty-seven of the flower of the people.

Thus the kingdom of the isles was wholly reduced, in which the King of Scotland had spent four years, to wit, from 1266 to 1270. The King of Norway, now seeing the kingdom of the isles lost, sent his chancellor a second time either to redeem it or compound for a tribute. The first was absolutely rejected; but to end farther disputes, a peace was concluded under several articles; of which the payment of four thousand marks ready money, and one hundred pounds by way of tribute, were the principal. No notice was taken of Mary, the child, nor her right, though last of the family of Goddard Crowman, which had held the government two hundred years, and were now succeeded by Alexander, King of Scotland, who enjoyed it by a mixt title of arms and purchase, and governed by his thanes or lieutenants: the first of whom was Goddard M'Manus, too honest a man to make a good governor in his prince's sense, who, for refusing to be concerned in the murder of three brethren descended from the former race, was removed after he had held this station four years.

To him succeeded Allen, a man that understood his king's pleasure better than how to govern his people well. He was imperious, cruel, hard-hearted, inexorable, too much of the bully for the governor, and too little for the soldier. The people till this time had followed their here-

ditary kings with a cheerful, active obedience, by which they were enabled not only to secure themselves, but often to make conquests abroad; but instead of the generous firmness of their ancestors, they were now degenerated into a sullen and supine negligence, and their only study was how they might legally disobey. This increased the thane's severity; for the more a people suffer, the more men of brutish and cruel souls insult.

At last, grown desperate by their miseries, the natives universally rose against the Scots nation, with a resolution either to extirpate them, or fall to a man themselves; but by the interposition of their good bishop, they agreed to end the dispute by a combat of thirty on a side. The thane, who had been the occasion of the quarrel, as he stood spectator of the fight, was pressed to death by the multitude.

The Manxmen lost the day, and all their thirty combatants fell; the Scots lost twenty-five. This last struggle of the Manx nation made the Scottish king sensible of his false policy.

He therefore sent over Maurice Okerfair, a wise and worthy magistrate, one whose prudence made him revered in peace, as his honour did in arms, which rendered him terrible in war, dreadful to the stubborn, tender to the poor, and merciful to the afflicted. In him the exactness of the soldier gave an air and vigour to the laws, and the sweetness of the gentleman softened their vigour in execution, by an excellent mixture of moderation and severity. He made it his business to allay the animosities of the two factions, and so far succeeded that he caused thirty cross marriages to be celebrated in one day. He held the government three years, and died in 1292, equally lamented by both nations.

Okerfair was succeeded by one Brenus, who pursued the gentle and moderate principles of his predecessor; and taught the people the art of fishing. He was unhappily

slain in some rencounter with the Highlanders, in the year 1287.

Branus was succeeded by Donald, a person of great birth and reputation ; but how long he had the government is uncertain, for in the year 1289 King Edward I. gave the Isle of Man, &c. to Walter de Huntercomb ; for upon the surrender of the island by Richard de Bengo, who probably had been intrusted with it by one of the competitors of the crown of Scotland, King Edward, in the eighteenth year of his reign, committed the custody of this island to the aforesaid Walter de Huntercomb, a very brave and honest man, who the year following, by his master's order, surrendered it to John Baliol, King of Scotland, with a salvo, notwithstanding, to King Edward's right, and that of all other pretenders.

Whether he was ever possessed of it doth not appear, for the Scottish nation was at that time greatly embroiled by the factions of Bruce and Baliol, competitors for the crown. King Edward was chosen as arbitrator of their difference, and being at Perth, or St. John's Town, Mary, the last of the old family, and wife of John de Waldebeef, made her claim, and offered to do her homage for the Isle of Man, but was answered, she must claim it of the King of Scotland, who then held it.

It also appears by petition to King Edward I. in Parliament, in the thirty-third year of his reign, that while this isle was in the hands of John Baliol, King of Scots, Mary, the wife of John de Waldebeef, presenting her right to the Isle of Man, was answered, she must prosecute it before the King of Scotland, who then held it as above. But she dying in the prosecution, the right descended to William, her son and heir, and from him to John his son, and from him to Mary his daughter, who survived her brother, and then claimed the Isle of Man, as true and lawful heir, and was answered, Let it be heard in the King's Bench, and justice done.

In the thirty-fifth of the aforesaid prince's reign there is a memorable record extant, in Mr. Prinn, of our king's right, and seizure of the Isle of Man, for his own use, upon the dispossessing of Henry Bello Monte; the custody whereof was granted to Gilbert de Makaskall, during pleasure, who had expended one thousand two hundred and fifteen pounds three shillings and fourpence, in defence of it against the Scots, and likewise laid out three hundred and eighty pounds seventeen shillings and sixpence in victuals, which delivering to the governor of the castle of Carlisle, to victual it against the Scots, both the sums were allowed him upon his petition, and ordered to be paid.

King Edward I. soon after dying, was succeeded by his son, the second of that name. This fickle prince made no less than three grants in one year, to so many of his favourites, to wit, Percy de Gaveston, Gilbert de M'Gascall, and Henricus de Bello Monte. The grant to the last is to be seen at large in Mr. Challoner. These uncommon proceedings put the island in great disorder and confusion, which gave King Robert Bruce an opportunity of ending all controversies, by asserting the right of the crown of Scotland; and in the year 1313, sat down before the castle of Rushen, which for six months was obstinately defended by one Diagay Dowill, though in whose name we do not find. But not long after, it was granted to Robert Randolph, Earl of Murray, during whose government, in the year 1316, Richard Le'Mandeville, with a numerous train of Irish, landed at Rannesway, (now Derby Haven,) demanding victuals and money, which being denied them, they divided themselves into two troops, and under the hill Warefield, now Barrowl, found the natives drawn up, but their spirits so dejected by their loss of liberty, invasions, depredations, and frequent change of masters, that they made little or no resistance.

The conquerors grievously spoiled the whole island and abbey of Rushen, and after a month's stay returned into

Ireland. After this the Scotch writers tell us of a grant to the Duke of Albany, the year uncertain; and lastly, to Martheline, the King's Almoner, who was sent over to take care of religion, and the reformation of manners, then wholly degenerated there.

He wrote against witchcraft, a practice too frequent in that place in those days. And for the better circulation of business, he is said to have minted a certain copper coin, with the king's effigies on the one side, and a cross on the other side, with this inscription, *Crux est Christianorum gloria*: the cross of Christ is the glory of Christians. To say truth, we have so little certainty of those times, that we rather expose their ignorance than inform ourselves; only this is certain on all hands, that in the year 1640, and in the seventh of Edward II. this island was retaken by the Scots, and John de Egarda, at that time a potent and eminent man in this isle, and his family, were driven from thence, after great losses sustained, into Ireland. Whereupon the king, upon his application, wrote to his Justice Chancellor and Treasurer of Ireland, to allow him a competent maintenance for his brave endeavours to serve him; who, after having refreshed himself, and collected his friends together, with what forces he could possibly raise, returned to the island, expelled the Scots, and restored the king's authority. Upon which the king again wrote to his officers in Ireland, to allow him a competent maintenance for himself, his family, and soldiers, *anno octavo regni eius*. Brave actions merit agreeable rewards, instanced in the loyalty, duty, and integrity of the above gentleman, and the justice and generosity of the prince in return thereof.

We come next to Mary, the last of the family of Gloddard Crowman, whom we left attending her fortune at London, where she married John de Waldebeof, a gentleman of eminent note and figure, by whom she left a son named William, who entered his claim in Parliament, in the thirty-third of Edward I. but died before any thing was

determined therein, and left a daughter Mary. This lady coming to England with her grandmother's deeds and charters, cast herself at the feet of King Edward III. imploring his majesty's assistance. That generous prince not only gave her his protection, but married her to Sir William Montacute, whom Mr. Speed styles the chief star in the firmament of England; for he was magnanimous, affable, active, and generous even to a fault. His merits had acquired him the esteem of the greatest of our English monarchs.

The king gave him both soldiers and shipping to prosecute his lady's right, which he did so successfully, that in a short time he recovered the island from the Scottish government; and the Manx History says, that excellent prince caused him to be crowned, and styled King of Man; anno 1844, according to Daniel and Stow.

But as the gaining a man's right often costs him more than it is worth, he had contracted so great a debt, that he was obliged to mortgage the island to Anthony Beck, Bishop of Durham, for seven years. This bishop was styled Patriarch of Jerusalem, a proud, busy, crafty, covetous prelate of little good nature, but abundance of grace; and as usurpers generally gripe hard when they have got possession, so he obtained a second grant thereof from Richard II. for his life, after whose decease the island devolved upon William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury, the descendant of the above William, who, in the year 1893, sold it to Sir William Scroop, Chamberlain to the king, as appears by record, viz. *Wilhelmus le Scroop emit de Domino. Wilhelmo Montauto insulam euboniæ est Maniæ, est nempe jus ipseus insulæ ut quisquis illus sit Dominus Rex vocetur ni etiam fas, est corona aurea coronari.*

This Sir William Scroop, afterwards Earl of Wiltshire, is said to have had all the vices of a great statesman, subtle, fawning, false, designing, timorous and unjust, covetous



and ambitious; and to support his own authority, misled a weak prince into a separate interest from his people, which in the end proved the ruin of them both; for the nobility, not able to bear his inscience and ill usage, rose against the king, though unsuccessfully, among whom the great Earl of Warwick, a true maintainer of English liberty, was banished to the Isle of Man, but soon after recalled.

For the Duke of Lancaster (afterwards King Henry IV.) landing in England, was universally received by the nobility and people, and Sir William Scroop, Earl of Wiltshire, had his head struck off without any formal process, for misgoverning the king and kingdom; and the Isle of Man was granted by King Henry IV. to Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, upon condition he should carry the Lancaster sword (with which the king was girt when he entered England,) on his left shoulder at his own coronation, and his successors the Kings of England for ever.

This earl was a hot, enterprising, haughty, and ambitious man, a zealous assertor of the power of the nobility, for which he fell under an attainder; but was, not long after, restored to all his lands and honours, the Isle of Man only excepted, which he was deprived of by act of Parliament. The Isle of Man at first was ordered to be seized by Sir John Stanley and Sir William Stanley for the king's use only.

But in the sixth of Henry IV. the king made a grant thereof to Sir John Stanley for life, in the month of October; and on the sixth of the ensuing April, Sir John Stanley delivered up the said grant to be cancelled in chancery; and the king, in consideration of the said surrender, and other valuable causes and concessions by Sir John Stanley, regranted the said island to him, his heirs and successors, with the castle and peel of Man, and all royalties, regalities, franchises, &c. with the patronage of the bishopric, in as full and ample a manner as it had been

granted to any former lord, to be held of the crown of England, *per homagium legium*, paying unto the king a cast of falcons at their coronation, after such homage made, in lieu of all demands, customs, &c. whatsoever. Anno 1406.

In the reign of his late majesty, George I. the Parliament taking into consideration the injury that was done to the revenue, by the peculiar situation of the Isle of Man, for running foreign goods into this kingdom, (which could no way be avoided, as it was a private property, and governed by particular laws of its own,) proposed to the Duke of Athol, the proprietor thereof by right of marriage into the Stanley family, to deliver it into the hands of the government, for a stipulated sum, supposed to be equivalent to its value. But the duke, unwilling to alienate so large a property of his family, and which had been enjoyed with so much dignity by his ancestors, used all his endeavours to stop such a proposal, and exerted all his interest to suppress the prosecution thereof. Accordingly for some time the affair was suspended; but the abuses appearing more and more flagrant, and the injury every day increasing, in spite of the power of acts of Parliament to suppress it, the Parliament passed an act, empowering certain persons to treat with the duke for the purchase thereof, which, after several delays, was determined, upon condition of the government's paying at a stipulated time the sum of £70,000, for the use of the then present Duke and Dutchess of Athol, or their heirs, or the heirs of either of them. In the year 1765, the time fixed, the money being lodged in the bank of England, pursuant to the agreement, as above, the following proclamation appeared in the gazette, which finally determined this great and important affair.

BY THE KING.

**A PROCLAMATION,***For continuing Officers in the ISLE of MAN.*

GEORGE R.

**W**HEREAS by an act made in the last session of Parliament, entitled, "An Act for carrying into execution a contract made, pursuant to the Act of Parliament of the twelfth of his late majesty King George I. between the Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, and the Duke and Dutchess of Athol, the Proprietors of the Isle of Man, and their Trustees, for the purchase of the said Island and its dependencies, under certain exceptions therein particularly mentioned,"—It is enacted, That from and immediately after the payment into the bank of England, by us, our heirs, or successors, in the names of John Duke of Athol, and Charlotte Dutchess of Athol his wife, Baroness Strange, Sir Charles Frederick, Knight of the most honourable order of the Bath, and Edmund Hoskins, Esq. or the survivors or survivor of them, of the sum of seventy thousand pounds, on or before the first day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and sixty-five, the island, castle, peel, and lordship of the Isle of Man, and all the islands and lordships to the said Island of Man appertaining, together with the royalties, regalities, franchises, liberties, and sea ports to the same belonging, and all other the hereditaments, and premises, therein particularly described and mentioned, (except as therein is excepted,) should be, and they were thereby unalienably

vested in us, our heirs, and successors, freed and discharged, and absolutely acquitted, exempted, and indemnified, of, from, and against, all estates, uses, trusts, entails, reversions, remainders, limitations, charges, encumbrances, titles, claims, and demands whatsoever. And whereas we have caused to be paid into the said bank of England, in the names of the said Duke and Dutchess of Athol, Sir Charles Frederick, and Edmund Hoskins, the said sum of seventy thousand pounds, on the seventeenth day of May last past, whereby, and by virtue of the said act of Parliament, the immediate care of our said island, and of our loving subjects therein, is now devolved upon us. And whereas by our commission, bearing even date with these present, we have constituted and appointed our trusty and well-beloved John Wood, Esq. to be our governor in chief, and captain general, in and over our said island, peel, and lordship of Man, and all the islands, forts, castles, and lordships, thereunto appertaining. We, being desirous to provide for the due and regular administration of justice within our said Island of Man, and the territories and dependencies to the same appertaining, and to secure the peace and good order thereof, and to promote, to the utmost of our power, the happiness and prosperity of all our loving subjects residing within the same, have thought fit, with the advice of our privy council, to issue this our royal proclamation, hereby strictly commanding and requiring all manner of persons whatsoever, to pay due regard and obedience to the said act of Parliament, and our said royal commission, and cheerfully and dutifully to submit themselves to our said governor so appointed by us as aforesaid, and to be aiding and assisting to him, and all other our magistrates and officers, in the lawful discharge of their authorities, to them committed and intrusted, as they will answer the contrary at their perils. And our will and pleasure is, that all officers and ministers who now are, or at the time of the publication of this our royal

proclamation within our Island of Man shall be, concerned in the administration of justice within our island aforesaid, and particularly our clerk of the rolls, attorney general, and two decemsters, and all other persons whatsoever, who at the times aforesaid are or shall be duly and lawfully possessed of, or invested in, any civil employment, (except only the officers appointed and employed by the late proprietors of our Island of Man, in collecting and receiving the revenues arising within our said island, and the territories and dependencies of the same,) shall from henceforth hold their respective offices, places, and employments of, from, and under us, our heirs, and successors, and shall continue in the exercise thereof, and shall enjoy the same, with such salaries, fees, profits, and emoluments, as have hitherto belonged to the same respectively, until our royal pleasure in this behalf shall be further known. And we do strictly command and enjoin all, and every the said persons, of whatsoever rank, condition, or degree, to proceed in the execution of the said respective offices, and to perform all the duties thereunto belonging, upon pain of our highest displeasure. And we do farther charge and command all and every our said magistrates, officers, and ministers, and all persons whatsoever, who shall hold any office, place, or employment, ecclesiastical, civil, or military, within our said Island of Man, and the territories and dependencies of the same, that within the space of one calendar month from and after the publication of this our proclamation within our said island, they do take the oaths appointed to be taken by an act of Parliament passed in the first year of the reign of his late Majesty King George I. entitled, "An Act for the further security of his Majesty's person and government, and the succession of the crown in the heirs of the late Princess Sophia, being Protestants; and for extinguishing the hopes of the pretended Prince of Wales, and his open Abettors;" and also make and subscribe the declaration mentioned in an act of Parliament

made in the twenty-fifth year of the reign of King Charles II. entitled, "An Act for preventing dangers which may happen from Popish Recusants," in the presence of our said governor, his lieutenant, or deputy, or in the superior court or courts of record in our said island, upon pain of our highest displeasure, and as they will answer the contrary, at their utmost perils. And our will and pleasure further is, that all jurisdictions and authorities whatsoever, which were heretofore carried on and exercised in the name of the Lord of our said Island of Man for the time being, or of any other person or persons whatsoever, and which are now vested in us, our heirs, and successors, by virtue of the said act of Parliament, shall be henceforth carried on and exercised in the name of us, our heirs and successors only; and that all writs, precepts, processes, orders, injunctions, and all other forms of law and justice, and all acts of state and policy, for the due ordering and government of our said island, and the territories and dependencies thereunto belonging, shall be issued and executed in the name and by the authority of us, our heirs, or successors, or our governor or lieutenant, or deputy governor, for the time being, appointed, or to be appointed by us, our heirs, and successors, and in no other name, and by no other authority whatsoever. And we do hereby strictly command and enjoin our said governor, and all other our magistrates and officers, within our said island, and the territories and dependencies to the same belonging, to see this our royal proclamation duly carried into execution; and to cause the same to be publicly read in all the principal towns of the said island, between the hours of eleven in the morning, and two in the afternoon; and printed copies thereof to be affixed in the most public places of the same, and to be distributed to all the ministers of churches, chapels, and other places of religious worship, within our said island, and the territories and dependencies thereunto belonging. And we do hereby lastly charge and command

all ministers of churches, chapels, and other places of religious worship aforesaid, publicly to read this our royal proclamation therein, on the next Lord's day after they shall receive the same, during the time of divine service, immediately before the homily or service, upon pain of our highest displeasure.

Given at our court at St. James's, the twenty-first day of June, 1765, in the fifth year of our reign.

**GOD SAVE THE KING.**

A

## TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

OF THE

## ISLE OF MAN.



**T**HE most general division of this Isle is into north and south, each of which has its castle, deemster or judge, and vicar general; and both are subdivided into seventeen parts or parishes, distinguished by the name of kirks. The saints to whom they were in old time dedicated, viz.

Kirk Christ, of Rushen.

Kirk Harbery, dedicated to St. Columbus.

Kirk Melue, dedicated to St. Lapus.

Kirk Santon.

Kirk Bradon, which signifies a Salmon in the Manx language.

Kirk Marcom.

Kirk Concan, dedicated to St. Conca, mother to St. Patrick.

Kirk Cannon.

Kirk Maughald.

Kirk Christ, of Ayre.

Kirk Bride or Bridget, a Parsonage.

Kirk Andrew, the Archdeaconry.

Jorby, or St. Patrick, of Jorby.

Ballough, a Parsonage.

Kirk Michael.

Kirk German.

Kirk Patrick, of Peel.

Their parishes are again divided into sheadings, as the people call them, viz. the sheading of Kirk Christ, Rushen, the middle sheading, the sheadings of Garf and Glanfaba, Michael sheading, and Ayre sheading, each of which has its coroner, as the parishes have every one a captain and minister, and every fort its constable, having three parishes in every sheading, but that of Glanfaba, which has but two parishes in it. The island was formerly more populous than now it is. At present there are but four principal towns, viz.

I. Rushen, the chief town, situate on the north side of the isle, and from a castle and garrison in it commonly called, by the English, Castletown. It is the usual residence of the governor, and hath a market and fort, but is under no special officers, as a mayor, aldermen, &c. as corporations are, but offenders are apprehended and brought to justice by the officers of the fort, or constable, as in all other towns and parishes. The castle is a noble piece of antiquity, said to be built by Gutred, the second of their Orrys's, grandson of the King of Denmark. At the foot of the castle is a creek, where ships sometimes venture in, not without danger; but a mile distant is a good harbour, called Derby Haven, secured by a fort, built by the late



Earl of Derby. Pope Gregory IV. or rather St. Patrick, who came into the isle, erected an episcopal See here by the name episcopal Sedorensis, and his jurisdiction was extended to all the Hebrides; but now it is limited to this island. The bishop was formerly reckoned a baron, but never sat in the house of Peers, because he held of a subject, the Earl of Derby, and not of the king, yet hath the highest seat in the lower house of convocation.

II. Douglas, situate on the east side of the isle, the most populous town, and the most spacious and best haven in the isle, the mouth of which is secured so well by a fort, that there is not any attempting either the town or harbour from the seaward. In times of peace it is much frequented by French and other foreigners, who come hither with bay-salt, wine and brandy, and buy up coarse wool, leather, and salt beef, to carry home; by which means this town is become the richest in the isle, and has a good market.

III. Ramsey hath also a good haven, defended by a block-house, built by the late earl.

IV. Peel or Pile, anciently called Holmtown, hath a fort, erected in a small isle, and defended with a strong garrison which secures the harbour. The castle has a platform round it, well secured with cannon. In it stands the ancient cathedral, dedicated to St. German, the first bishop, and repaired by the Earls of Derby, as also a ruined church dedicated to St. Patrick, their apostle. Within this circuit is the lord's house, some ruinous lodgings of the bishop's, and other noble remains of antiquity.

There are some other towns of lesser note, but are remarkable for some particulars, as,

Balazuri, on the south side of the isle, where the bishop generally resides.

Laxy, which has the largest haven of any town in the isle.

This isle is compassed with huge rocks round about.

The air is sharp and cold in winter, and on the south-west side it lies open to the chops of the channel, and so is liable to a salt vapour, which sometimes has bad effects, but generally is very wholesome to live in, having no damps or venomous vapours arising out of the earth. They have some frost, but short and seldom.

The soil in the north parts is very healthy, sandy, and gravelly; and the north-east has a large tract of meadow called Curragh, which was formerly under water, but is now drained and well improved; but in the south there are good meadows and pastures.

All parts of the isle produce store of wheat, barley, rye, and oats, of late, since they have learned the art of liming their lands, and manuring them with sea-weeds; and some places have plenty of honey, flax, and hemp, and export yearly some fish-oil.

Towards the middle it is mountainous; and the highest hill, called Scafell, yields a prospect into England, Scotland, and Ireland, in a clear day.

They have cattle of all sorts; but their meat and horses are small and poor, yet will endure a great deal of labour.

Their sheep thrive well, are fat, and well tasted; and their wool is very good, especially that which they call Laughton wool, which when carefully dressed makes a cloth near a hare-colour, which is one of the greatest natural rarities of the country.

They have plenty of goats and hags of the ordinary size, besides a small kind which live wild in the mountains, called purs, which are admirable meat; and some red deer in the mountains: but they belonged, before the late cession to the government, to the lord of the isle, the Earl of Derby, who had lately stocked the Caſk, a pleasant isle adjoining, with fallow deer, and made it a beautiful park.

Their hares are fatter here than in any other country, and they want not otters, badgers, and foxes.

Fowls also of several kinds are found here, as hawks,

which in King Henry IV's time were in such esteem, that Sir John Stanley, the first King of Man, in his patent, was obliged, in lieu of all other services, to present that king and his successors, upon the day of their coronation, with a cast of hawks, geese, hens, ducks, falcons, and wild fowl in plenty.

On the south side of the isle is another island, called the Calf of Man, which is stored with a sort of sea-fowl, called puffins, whose flesh is unpleasant; but being pickled, may vie with anchovies or cavear. They breed in holes like rabbits, and are never to be seen but in the months of June and July, which are their times of sitting.

There is also another kind, called barnacles, which are a kind of ducks and drakes, said to be bred out of rotten wood, but found, upon search, to be produced of eggs as other fowl.

Partridges and farkers will not live here, nor any venomous creature propagate their kind.

Here are many small rills of fresh water, and springs of a pure pleasant taste.

Here is also a pool in the mountainous parts near Kirk Christ, Rushen, of so vitriolic a quality, that no ducks or geese can live near it, which probably proceeds from the frequent spewings of copper that are discovered on all sides of those mountains.

They have sea-fish in abundance, as salmon, ling, cod, haddock, mackarel, ray, thornback, plaice, especially herrings, crabs, lobsters, and cockles, but few or no oysters; but what they have are very large.

They have no wood in the isle, nor is there a tree to be seen, though in former times there was great plenty, as appears from Goddard Crowman's hiding 300 men in a wood, and from the church called Kirk Arbory, which seems to be so called from *arbor*, a tree, as also from the timber found in their bogs, and especially in the meadows called Curragh; nor have they as yet discovered any sea

coal for firing in their soil, only they have plenty imported. The poorer sort make use of gorze, heath, ling, and broom, and a coarse sort of turf or peat in digging, when they often find oaks laying under ground.

They have some good stone quarries, especially limestone, on the sea shore, and the rocks called Minehaugh give very probable signs of other minerals. They have also lately found iron, lead, and copper, and there is great probability of finding coals.

This island seems to have been peopled from the Hebrides, or Western Isles of Scotland, and their language is a kind of Scotch-Irish, mingled with Latin, Greek, and English.

We have a specimen of the Manx language given us in the Lord's prayer, printed in Bishop Wilson's *Enchiridion*, and a collection of the Lord's prayer in above a hundred languages, printed in the year 1703.

The peasants are tall in stature, of a dull surly temper, and live in poor huts made up of stones and clay, and thatched with broom.

Their gentry are courteous and affable, and imitate the English in their carriage, apparel, and housekeeping.

The families of gentlemen named Christian and Cannel are of great antiquity, and out of them their deemsters or judges are usually chosen.

It is almost certain, that this island was never in the possession of the Romans, and so retained their original simplicity longer than the rest of Britain.

The original government of this island was a sort of aristocracy, I had almost said theocracy, under the Druids, admirably adapted to the good of mankind, and so mixed with the prince and priest, that religion and the state had but one united interest.

All controversies were ended by an amicable composition, and the integrity of their rulers was such, that their awards were instead of laws.

This was the true patriarchal government, to which virtue, not birth, was the best title, and is supposed to have continued here till the end of the fourth century, when, according to Mr. Cambden, out of Nenaius, this island was conquered by one Bailey, a Scot, who overturned the ancient form of government, and ruled all by his own will, which force, not reason, swayed, till necessity obliged his successors to agree in some rules and laws, which were the foundation of their present constitution.

The laws and statutes of this island are such, as the Lord C. J. Coke saith, that the like are not to be found any where else.

They were governed of old by a *jus scriptum*, which was committed to the fidelity of their decumters, a certain sort of judges chosen every year to decide all controversies, a custom received probably from the Druids.

All possible care is taken for the speedy execution of justice.

The government of this isle hath, ever since its conquest by Bailey, been reputed monarchial, and was governed by kings of their own, who claimed the whole revenues of the isle; and all the inhabitants were tenants at will to him; but growing weak in power, they were made tributaries to the Kings of England, Scotland, or Norway. Their names are,

Monnan-Mac-Lear, son of the King of Ulster, and brother of Fergus, King of Scotland. Him the Manx believe their founder and legislator, and have him in great admiration for his wisdom.

Towards the end of his reign, St. Patrick, in his second voyage to Ireland, landed here.

The names of his immediate successors are lost, till

Brenus reigned, A. D. 594, who was succeeded by

Ferquard, Fiacres, Donald, Gutred, Reginald, Olave, Olain, Allen, Frigall, Goddard, Macon, or Macutus, Syrric.

Goddard, the son of Syrrie, who reigned	A. D. 1065
Fingal, son of Goddard,	1066
Goddard, son of Harold,	1066
Lagman, son of Goddard,	1068
Dopnal, son of Tade,	1080
Magnus, King of Norway,	1088
Olave, third son of Goddard,	1102
Goddard, son of Olave,	1144
Reginald, natural son of Goddard,	1167
Olave, the lawful son of Goddard,	1228
Harold, son of Olave,	1237
Reginald II. his brother,	1249
Magnus II. his brother,	1252
Alexander, King of Scots,	1300
William Montacute,	1306
Anthony Beek, Bishop of Durham,	1306
Pierce Gaveston,	1306
Henry Beaumont,	
Thomas Randolph,	
Alexander, Duke of Albany,	
William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury,	1349
Who sold it to William Lord Sereop,	1395
Who forfeiting it by treason, it fell into King Henry IVth's hands, who gave it to Henry Earl of Northumberland.	

But he was banished four years after, and being deprived of this isle, it was given to Sir John Stanley, in whose family it has continued through many descents ever since, by the style and title of Lords of Man.

The Duke of Athol, as Lord of Man, was Admiral of the Isle, and had an absolute jurisdiction over the people and soil; so that he was immediate landlord of every man's estate, some few barons only excepted: and reserving his homage to the crown of England, no prince had a more full and ample authority.

He was sole patron of the bishopric, and all parsonages

and vicarages except three, which are in the patronage of the bishop.

He had power to make and repeal laws by the advice of his deemsters and twenty-four keys, who must have had his approbation, or he would reject them from the assembly.

He had power of holding courts in his own name; might hang and draw, or pardon malefactors, in his own jurisdiction.

All wrecks, royal fishing, &c. were his by regality, with many other prerogatives.

The civil policy of their government was managed by the lieutenant, who was the duke's immediate representative, and had often been of his family; with other inferior officers.

The lieutenant or governor has a power to call a Tynwald or Parliament, or any other Court, which cannot sit without his warrant. He swears inquests, is sole chancellor, and hath the sole military power to place or displace officers in garrisons, or otherwise; and whoever opposes him in any place or thing wherein he represents the king, robs him of his horse or arms, beats his servants, or breaks his house, is a traitor. Sometimes there has been a captain general, but it was only in some extraordinary cases. The other officers for the duke's service are,

A Receiver General or Treasurer of the Island. He has the charge of the revenue, and pays all the salaries of the civil list, but is accountable to

The Comptroller, who always sits with him both on receipts and payments, and is the auditor of the general accompts. He sits sole judge in all trials for life in the garrison, keeps the records, and enters the pleas of the several courts, where he is allowed fees.

The Water Bailiff, who is in the nature of the Admiral of the Island, and sits judge in all maritime affairs. He has the care of the customs, fishing, wrecks, &c.

The Attorney General, who sits in all courts to plead for the king's profit, as suing for felons, goods, forfeitures, deodands, &c. and is to plead the causes of all widows and orphans, they giving him twopence for his fee.

All the aforesaid officers act by commission from the king during pleasure, and upon his decease their power of acting all expires with him; in the absence whereof the sword takes place, and the chief Commanding Military Officer, who is generally styled Major, takes upon him the preservation of the peace of the island, by seizing the castle and forts, preventing all tumults and disorders, and all persons from going off the island to the prejudice of the inhabitants, until the civil power is restored and re-established by new commissions from the succeeding king.

All the said officers were esteemed of the household or court, and formerly had their diet in the family, where a constant table was kept for them and their attendants. These officers are all by their places justices of the peace, and are in all things to act for the king's profit. The king may call them as a counsel to his assistance, when he thinks proper, or occasion requires, either for the service of himself, or the country.

The deemsters, or judges, are the first public magistrates of the state, but were never part of the household or family. They sit as judges in all courts, either for life or property; they have always been two, one for each division of the isle. They are styled in the ancient court-rolls *Justiciary Domini Regis*. Whether they have their names from the old word to deem, judge, or determine, or to doom, sentence, or condemn, I am not informed, nor can take upon me to ascertain; but by the advice of the twenty-four keys they may, in all new and uncommon cases, declare what the law is, in such cases wherein the law is not fully expressed.

By the ancient law of the isle it is provided, that if any person accuse the deemsters of injustice or mal-adminis-



tration, he forfeits life and limb. The summons or process used by them is the same with the governor, to wit, a slate stone with one or two letters of their name made upon it; and to counterfeit or misapply this process is as highly penal in their law as the counterfeiting the lord chief justice's warrant is with us.

After the deemsters the twenty-four keys are the representatives of the country, and in some cases serve as the grand inquest of the isle. They are the last traverse in all cases of common law, are present at all trials for life, and in conjunction with the governor and officers of the household aforesaid make the legislative power of that little nation.

The next officers are the coroners of each sheading or division; who act in the nature of sheriffs, and are subordinate to the twenty-four keys.

Every parish hath likewise an officer called a moor, which is the lord's bailiff, and each of them have a subordinate officer not worth our notice.

The courts of judicature are usually twice in the year, to wit, about May and Michaelmas. The first are called sheading courts, and in the nature of our hundred courts, or courts leet and baron; these are held for the king's profit, and relate to all breaches of the peace, and all presentments are here made upon any violation of their laws or public orders.

Immediately after these are held the common law courts, where all actions relating to men's properties are tried. These courts were formerly held in every sheading distinctly, but now have proper places appointed for the holding of them, with all due regard to the ease and benefit of the people.

Next after these follows the grand court or general gaol delivery, in which are managed all trials for life; and perhaps there is no place in the universe where men have a fairer trial, nor where the taking away life is more tenderly regarded.

In this court the governor presides, assisted by the king's officers, with the bishop and his clergy.

The deemsters sit as judges, with the twenty-four keys, to advise with in case any new matter arises. The criminal must be first found guilty of the crime he stands charged with by the grand inquest, and if the case be treason or murder, the witnesses have a very particular and solemn oath administered to them, to wit. The clerk who administers the oath opens the book of the gospel, and the witness or evidence lays his right hand open upon it, then the clerk says to him ;

By this book of truth, by all the holy and sacred body of the church, by all the wonderful works and mighty miracles God Almighty wrought in six days and seven nights, in heaven above, and earth beneath, you shall speak the truth, and say nothing that is false for love or fear, favour or affection, consanguinity or affinity, or any other consideration whatsoever ; so may you be helped by the Son of God, and by the contents of this book whereon your hand now lies. Then the witness kisses the book.

After this, a peculiar jury of four out of every parish in the island is empannelled, and the prisoner may make his exception against fifty-six and no more. And if his case be felony only, and he suspects it will go hard with him, he may put himself to the king's mercy, and so evade the trial and sentence by the court ; and the king, by their law, as well as his prerogative, grants him his grace in such manner as he thinks proper.

But if he stands his trial for life, when the jury come into court, and before they deliver their verdict, the deemsters ask them whether the bald pates (to wit, the clergy,) may sit ; and if the foreman answer no, then the bishop and clergy withdraw, as not proper for them to sit or pass sentence in cases of blood ; and then the verdict is delivered, and the criminal found guilty, and executed as the court directs ; or, if acquitted, discharged.

There is likewise another court, called the Debet Court, in which all fines are set; and there is an Exchequer Court, which is held as often as the governor pleases, or occasion requires. There is also a Court of Chancery, which anciently was held weekly, but at present is kept monthly, wherein the governor sits sole chancellor, and may call the king's council and the deemsters to advise with, as he sees proper.

All actions brought in chancery are entered in the comptroller's office, of which the plaintiff presents the governor a copy, who grants his token upon it to summons the defendant, who may refuse appearance for three court days, but on the fourth he is brought in by a soldier, and the matter heard and determined. So speedy is the justice of this little government that it may challenge the world.

The religion professed in this isle is exactly the same with the church of England; but they have not the Bible in their own language. The ministers turn the English translation into the Manx language in reading the lessons.

The Manxmen are very respectful to their clergy, and pay their tithes without the least grudging.

The clergy are generally natives, who have had their education in the isle. They are sober and learned, and are allowed a competent maintenance of fifty or sixty pounds a year.

The people are so strictly conformable, that in uniformity they outdo any other branch of the reformed church.

There were anciently in this isle three monasteries, viz.

1. The monastery of St. Mary, of Rushen, in Castle-town, which was the chief, and the burying-place of the Kings of Man.

It was a goodly fabric, as appears by the ruins. It consisted of an abbot and twelve monks, who had good revenues. The chapel was the largest place of God's worship in the island, except the cathedral.

It was a daughter of Furness Abbey, as were some other

monasteries in this isle. The abbots of it were barons, held courts for their temporalities, and tried their own tenants.

2. Douglas, a priory for nuns. This house is said to be built by St. Bridget, and the prioress was a baroness of the island. It is the most pleasantly situated in the isle.

3. At Brinnaken, a house of the friars minors, a small plantation of the Cistercian order.

The abbots also of St. Bees, of Whittern, in Galloway, and Banchor, in Ireland, were Barons of Man, because they held lands in this island, upon condition of attending upon the kings and lords of it when required.

Having now with some pains and perplexity of thought attended and brought my reader through the obscure and intricate history, constitution, civil government, and antiquities of the little kingdom of Mona, and corrected and amended what I have judged error or mistake in former writers on that subject, what remains before I conclude, but that I give the world the ecclesiastic history of this little kingdom, from its first conversion to Christianity, with the growth, state, and government of the church, its bishops, pastors, and overseers, from the earliest date, and the most approved authorities I have been able to collect from the various writers and histories of those ages?

The first mention I meet with of Christianity's appearance in the Isle of Man, is in Capgrave's *Life of Joseph of Arimathea*, wherein he tells us of one Mordaius, a king of that isle, being converted to Christianity, about the year of salvation 63, who had his residence in a city called Sodor. If this story be true, (which I much doubt on, as hereafter,) Christianity had an early plantation in this island. But it is matter of wonder to me, that this conversion of the king should not have had a more general influence over the people; for in all the authors I have met with, I find no mention of Christianity in this part of the world of near 400 years after this story, except in another.

such like story, by Hecstor Boetius, who relates that one Amphibizus was bishop here about the time aforesaid. But as this story is rejected by most men of learning, except Archbishop Spotswood, I shall with deference consider him so far as to give you his relation thereof from his own words, Book 1st, fol. 3rd, and then make my remarks thereon.

He acquaints us, that one Crastinus coming to the crown, in the year 377, made it one of his first works to purge the kingdom of heathenish superstition, and expel the Druids, a sort of priests held in those days in great reputation. Their manner was, to celebrate their sacrifices and other rites in groves, with leaves and branches of oak. And from thence, saith Pliny, they were called Druids, which doth signify an oak.

Cæsar, in his Commentaries, gives us this further account of them, that besides the managing of sacrifices, which were committed to them, they were intrusted with the decision of controversies, public and private; and that such as would not stand to their judgment were interdicted from being present at their sacrifices and holy rites, which was taken for a grievous punishment in those days.

It is likewise testified of them, that they were well learned in all natural philosophy, men of moral conversation, and for religion not so grossly ignorant and superstitious as other heathen priests; for they thought there was one only God, and that it was not lawful to represent him by any image; that the souls of men did not perish with their bodies; and that after death men were rewarded according to the life they had led upon earth. They lived likewise in great respect with all people, and ruled their affairs with great prudence and policy; for being governed by a president, who kept his residence in the Isle of Man; they did once every year meet in that place to take counsel together for the better ordering of their affairs, and carried matters with so much discretion, that the said King Crast-

liath found it difficult to expel them, because of the favour they had amongst the people.

But that which contributed greatly to the propagation of the gospel in this isle, was the persecution raised by Dioclesian, which at that time prevailed very greatly in the south part of Britain, and brought many Christians, both preachers and professors, into the kingdom of Man, who were all kindly received by King Cratiliath, and had assigned them by him lands and revenues sufficient for their maintenance.

In this isle King Cratiliath erected a stately church to the honour of our Saviour, which he adorned with all necessary ornaments, and called it *Sadorenae Fanum*, that is, the Temple of our Saviour; hence it is, says the above story, that the bishops of Man are called *Sadorenae Episcopy*.

So long as this isle remained in the possession of the Scots, the bishops of the isles made that church their cathedral; but since their dispossession, the Isle of Jona had been the seat of the bishops of the isles, and continueth so to this day. In this isle Amphibalus (above-mentioned) is said to have sat first bishop, a Briton born, and a man of excellent piety. He lived long, preaching carefully the doctrine of Christ, both among the Scots and Picts, and after many labours taken in promoting the Christian religion, died peaceably in the said isle. Thus far the learned and good Bishop Spotswood, who in my humble opinion, with all reverence I think, preferred his zeal for Christianity before his judgment in the case above.

There are so many improbabilities in this and the story before it, that I cannot omit to observe some of them. First, Hector Boetius says Amphibalus fled from the persecution of Dioclesian, in South Britain, in the year 286. Whereas Dioclesian did not obtain the empire till the year 286, neither did the tenth persecution arise till the year 302; and Gildas and Polydore Virgil say expressly, that

both St. Alban and Amphibalus suffered martyrdom in the year 305; and the general stream of all British writers concur in this martyrdom, neither do any of the Scotch writers mention Amphibalus, in the life of Cratilius, before Hector Boetius and his followers.

And it is in my judgment almost impossible to conceive, that the Manx nation should preserve no memory of so considerable a blessing as their first conversion to Christianity; besides all their traditions are directly against it. Matthew Paris affirms, that the body of Amphibalus was found at Radburn, near St. Albans, in the year 1178; and many other marks of his martyrdom at Radburn strongly conclude he died for his religion in England, and never fled to the Isle of Man to erect a bishopric, and *Fanum Sodorense*; besides it must appear something wonderful and surprising, that no memory of Christianity, nor ruin of any such church should be found, or so much as mention made of them, at the time of St. Patrick's landing there, which is enough with me to show there is nothing of truth or certainty in the abovesaid story.

Next to the said accounts already taken notice of, Mr. Camden, my Lord Cook, and Doctor Heylin, all three affirm, that the bishopric in the Isle of Man was erected by Pope Gregory IV. anno 480, in an island near Castletown; whereas the bishopric is sufficiently proved, by the great Primate of Armagh, to be erected by St. Patrick, about the year 447, and the place itself shows there is no such island near Castletown.

And herewith all the ecclesiastical writers of any credit in those ages agree, that St. Patrick (alias Patricius,) was the first that planted the Christian religion in the Isle of Man; and since their ancient, authentic, and national tradition concur therewith, I cannot but allow him to be truly the apostle of the Manx nation, as well as for the reasons following.

First, if I remember my reading rightly, I have met

with it in the curious essays of the great and learned Lord Montaigne, who lived about the time of Pope Gregory IV. or not long after. This pope was said to be a person of great learning, piety, and virtue, and a zealous promoter of the Christian faith, by which he obtained the epithet of Great; who, walking on a time through the market-place of Rome, espied a number of beautiful captive children sitting there to be sold, which induced his compassion as well as curiosity to go up to them, and inquire of those that sold them what country they were of; and being told they were Britons, he then asked if they were Christians, and was answered, no. Upon which he said, it was great pity that such angelical faces should not be made Christians.

In consequence whereof he soon after sent St. Patrick, with twenty more assistants, to preach the gospel, and convert to Christianity the people of Scotland and Ireland; for it does not appear he came into Ireland till the year 441, and Austin the monk had been sent into England before him by the same pope.

St. Patrick with his company, having landed in North Britain, met with great success in their mission; upon which St. Patrick leaving St. Andrew and other learned preachers to pursue the great work of propagating Christianity there, passed over to Ireland, where he found the harvest great, but the labourers too few: whereupon he returned to North Britain, in the year 444, and collecting together some of his former assistants, with some new converts of learned and religious persons, to the number of thirty, he came with them through the north of England, to take shipping at Liverpool for the south of Ireland; and on his approach near that town, the people came out to receive him, and at the place they met him erected a cross in honour and memory thereof, and called it by his name, which it bears to this day.

St. Patrick and his company having rested and refreshed



themselves awhile at Liverpool, took shipping for Dublin, but in his passage put into the Isle of Man, where he found the people, especially the rulers, given to magic; but being overcome and convinced by his preaching and miracles, they were either converted or expelled the island.

St. Patrick and his company going for Ireland, anno 447, left one Germanus, a holy and prudent man, (*ad regendum et erudiendum populum in fide Christi*, says Jocelinus) which, for the honour of the Manx nation, was sixty-nine years more ancient than Bangor, in Wales, which was the first bishopric we read of among the Britons, and 114 years before Austin the monk introduced the Liturgy of the Lateran, and thereby so absolutely settled the business of religion, that the island never afterwards relapsed.

Germanus died before St. Patrick, who sent two bishops to supply his place, Conindrius and Romulus, of whom we have little memorable, but that one or both of them survived St. Patrick, to the year 484, being five years, when one St. Maughold was elected bishop by the universal suffrage of the Manx nation; but by whom consecrated is very uncertain, as also his successors for some ages, which I shall studiously omit, and only acquaint my reader that one St. Columbus is acknowledged by all writers to be the founder of the abbey of Hye, in the Island of Jona, which monastery was the cathedral of the bishops of the isles, who were from that time styled *Episcopus Soderensis*, from a village called Sodor, adjoining to the said monastery.

But after the Isle of Man was made the seat of the Norwegian race, the bishoprics were united, with the title of Sodor and Man, and so continued, till conquered by the English, since which the Bishop of Man keeps his claim, and the Scotch bishop styles himself Bishop of the Isles, anciently, *Episcopus Insularum Soderensium*.

I could here enlarge pretty much on the succession of the bishops of this isle, from the time of St. Maughold,

yet, as it is not certainly known who they were, or in what order they sat, I shall purposely omit them, and content myself with giving you a list of their succession from the time of Goddard Crowman, the first king I have before taken notice of, and so conclude my history of Man, both civil and ecclesiastical, and with the greatest certainty that I have been able to collect from the best writers on this subject.

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## THE SUCCESSION

OF

## THE BISHOPS OF MAN.

**H**OW long St. Maughold sat bishop we do not find, only Dr. Heylin says, he was bishop anno 578; of which we have no other certainty, nor of a successor till the year 600.

Whose name was Coranus, tutor to the three sons of Eugénus, the fourth King of Scotland, as Bishop Spotswood informs us. After him the succession appears wholly broken till the eleventh century; yet during this long vacancy many errors arose, and many mistakes were advanced concerning it, which most of our English writers have fallen into without any good ground in history, save that the bishopric of the isles had its beginning about that time, to wit, in the year 840.

In a very ancient manuscript by the Rev. Mr. Henry Jones, nephew to the Right Rev. Dr. Fell, Bishop of Oxford, we meet with an exact succession for above 200 years, which, in the opinion of the learned, was extracted from the roll of the ancient abbey of Rushen in the Isle of Man.

This manuscript, by way of introduction, informs us, that though they had a traditional succession of bishops from the time of St. Maugheld, yet they were not certainly known; therefore it was thought proper to omit them, and begin from the time of King Goddard Crowman, as before proposed.

In his reign we meet with one Hamundus, by some written Vermundus, Bishop of Man, and probably was the first bishop styled of Sodor and Man. He was the son of Jole, a Manxman. Matthew Paris says he died in the year 1151. It is not certain by whom he was consecrated, nor his successor, who was one

Gamaliel, an Englishman, who lies buried at Peterborough, in Northamptonshire; and was succeeded by Reginald, a Norwegian. To him the thirds of all the livings in the islands were granted by the clergy, that from thenceforward they might be freed from all episcopal exactions. It is probable that he was the first bishop that was consecrated by the Archbishop of Drontheim, in Norway. His successor was one Christian, a native of the isle, who lies buried in the monastery of Banchor, in Ireland. To him succeeded,

Michael, a Manxman, a person of great merit and exemplary life. He died in a good old age, and was honourably buried apud Fontanus. In the year 1203, to him succeeded,

Nicholas de Melsa, Abbot of Furness. He lies buried in the abbey of Bangor.

After him Reginald, a person of royal extraction, sister's son to good King Olave, was consecrated bishop in the

year 1216; who, though he laboured under great infirmities of body, governed his church with prudence and resolution. At last, with an exemplary resignation, he yielded up his soul into the hands of his Creator, and lies buried in the abbey of Rushen. He was succeeded by

John, the son of Hefare, who by the negligence of his servants was burnt, apud Jerevas in Anglia. After him one

Simond, a person of great discretion, and learned in the Holy Scriptures, governed the church with prudence and piety. He held a synod in the year 1239, in which thirteen canons were excepted, most of them relating to the probate of wills, the clergy's dues, and other inferior matters. He died at his palace of Kirk Michael in a good old age, and lies buried in the cathedral dedicated to St. German, in Peel Castle. After him

Lawrence, the archdeacon before-mentioned, was elected bishop, and after great disputes consecrated by the Archbishop of Drontheim, but was unfortunately drowned with Harold, King of Man, his queen, and almost all the nobility of the isle; so that the bishopric continued vacant almost six years, when

Richard, an Englishman, was consecrated at Rome by the Archbishop of Drontheim. This bishop consecrated the abbey church of St. Mary, of Rushen, anno 1257. After he had governed the church twenty-three years, and returning from a general council, anno 1274, he died, apud Langallyner in Copelandia, and lieth buried in the abbey of Furness. In his time the Scotch conquered the island. He was succeeded by

Marus Galvadiensis, commonly written Galloredinus, at the nomination of Alexander, King of Scotland; for which reason it is supposed he was banished by the Manxmen. During his absence, the island lay under an interdict; but at last being recalled, he laid a smoke-penny upon every house, by way of commutation. He held a synod at Kirk Braddan, in which thirty-five canons were enacted. He

lived to a great age; and was for many years blind, and lies buried in St. German's church, in Peel Castle. He was succeeded by

Mauritius, who was sent prisoner to London by King Edward I. therefore supposed never to be consecrated, not put into the catalogue of bishops. In his room was substituted

Allen, of Galloway, who governed the church with great honour and integrity. He died the 15th of February, anno 1321, and lies at Rothersay, in Scotland. To him succeeded

Gilbert, of Galloway, who sat but two years and a half, and lies buried near his predecessor, in the church of Rothersay aforesaid. And after him

Bernard, a Scotchman, held the bishopric three years, and lies buried in the monastery of Kilwinning, in Scotland. He was succeeded by

Thomas, a Scot, who sat bishop fourteen years: he was the first that exacted twenty shillings of his clergy by way of procuration, as likewise the tenths of all aliens. He died the 20th of September, 1348. The same year,

William Russel, Abbot of Rushen, was elected by the whole clergy of Man, in St. German's church, in Peel Castle. He was consecrated by Pope Clement VI. at Avignon, and was the first that shook off the yoke of the Archbishop of Drontheim, by whom his predecessors had for many ages been consecrated. He held a synod, anno 1350, in Kirk Michael, in which five articles were added to the former canons. He died the 21st of April, 1374, and was buried in the abbey of Furness. He was Abbot of Rushen eighteen years, and bishop twenty-six years. After him

John Duncan, a Manxman, was elected by the clergy of Man; and going to Avignon was confirmed by Pope Gregory XI. and consecrated *per Cardinalem Presicetianum, dudum Archiepiscopum*. In his return home he was

made prisoner at Bolonia, in Picardy, and lay in irons two years; and at last was forced to ransom himself for 500 marks; so that he was not installed till the year 1376, in which Mr. Jones's account determines he was succeeded (as Dr. Heylin in his *Help to English History* informs us) by

Robert Welby, anno 1398, who, it is believed, sat twenty-two years, and had for his successor

John Sperton, who is the first bishop mentioned in the Manx records. After him we find no bishop named till the year 1606, in which

Evan, or Huan, was elected by Sir Thomas Stanley, then governor, and afterwards lord; from whence may be observed the clergy's election of their bishops ceased, and became fixed in the house of Stanley, where it remained till the island being purchased by the government, the King of England is become perpetual nominator. This Evan was succeeded by

Hugh Hesketh, as appears by the roll of the family of Rufford, viz. Hugh Hesketh, third son to Robert, Esq. a reverend father in God, the Bishop of the Isle of Man; and his *jacet Robertus Hesketh, Armiger, qui obiit primo die Jan. A. D. 1490.* He was succeeded by

Robert Ferrier, who sat bishop anno 1554, says Sir Richard Baker. He was afterwards removed to St. David's, says Grafton, and was succeeded by

Henry Man, anno 1555, who died 1558, says Dr. Heylin, and was succeeded by

Bishop Salisbury, the year uncertain; whose successor was

Thomas Stanley, son to Sir Edward Stanley, first Lord Monteagle. How long he sat is uncertain, but it appears by record, John Merrick was sworn bishop of the isles, anno 1577. It was he who gave Mr. Cambden the history of the Isle of Man, published in his *Britannia*. He was succeeded by

George Lloyd, anno 1600, who was afterwards removed to Chester. He had for his successor

Bishop Foster, as Dr. Heylin in his *Help to English History* informs us. And was succeeded by

Dr. John Phillips, anno 1605, a native of North Wales, who was sworn bishop the same year. He translated the Common Prayer (at this time to be seen,) into the language of the natives; and, Mr. Challoner says, the Bible, though not now extant. A man famous in his generation for his great pains in preaching, his charity and hospitality, even to the meanest of the people. He was succeeded by

Dr. Richard Parr, anno 1635, a Lancashire man, sometime fellow of Brazennose College in Oxford; who whilst he continued in the university (says Mr. Challoner, of his own knowledge,) was an eminent preacher. He was the last who sat bishop before our late unhappy civil wars. Next to him

Samuel Rutter was sworn bishop, anno 1661. He had been archdeacon several years, and governed the church with great prudence during the then late wars. He was a man of exemplary goodness and moderation, and sat bishop till the year 1663. To him I am greatly obliged for his collections and memoirs made use of in my *History of the noble House of Stanley*, but especially in that ever-memorable *Siege of Latham*, the defence whereof he had a large share in. After him

Dr. Isaac Barrow was consecrated bishop, anno 1663, and sent over governor by Charles Earl of Derby. He was a man of a public spirit, and great designs for the good of the church; to whose industry is greatly owing all the learning amongst the clergy of Man, and to whose prudence and charity many of the poor clergy owe the bread they eat. This good man, to the great loss of the island, was removed to St. Asaph. He was succeeded by

Dr. Henry Bridgeman, anno 1671. After him

Dr. John Lake, anno 1682, afterwards removed to Bristol. Next to him

Dr. Baptist Levinz, anno 1684, who died 1693, and the see remained vacant five years, when, to the inexpressible benefit of the inhabitants of Man,

Dr. Thomas Wilson was promoted to the government of the church : but, as the life of this bishop is ultimately connected with the state of the island and its history during a period of sixty years, in which all the energy of his capacious mind, and all the virtues of his excellent heart, were devoted to benefit and improve his charge, I cannot pass him over, as I have done others, with a brief notice, believing no particulars of a life so exemplary can be uninteresting to my readers. I shall, therefore, make a large extract from the history of this apostolic divine, as it was published, under the authority of his son, in 1787.

Dr. Thomas Wilson was born at Burton, in Cheshire, September 20, 1663, and, as he himself says, in his diary, of honest parents, fearing God. After a preparatory education in his own country, he was sent to Trinity College, Dublin. His first design on entering at the University was, to devote himself to the study of physic, in which he made some progress ; and even after having yielded to the advice of his friend, Archdeacon Hewetson, to dedicate his services to the church, he still continued to pursue, at intervals, the study he had originally set out with, which afterwards proved of essential service to the people of his diocese ; and, what was of the utmost importance to Mr. Wilson himself, greatly extended his sphere of usefulness.

He continued at College till the year 1689, when he was ordained deacon ; of which event, he, ever after, kept the anniversary, as a season of particular devotion. The exact time of his leaving Dublin is not known ; but soon after his return to England, he was licensed curate of New Church, in the parish of Winwick, Lancashire, of which his maternal uncle, Dr. Sherlock, was rector ; and here,



out of a stipend of £30. per annum, he devoted one-tenth to charitable uses. On the 20th of October, 1690, he was ordained priest, on which occasion he formed certain solemn resolutions, from which he never swerved throughout the course of his life.

The first, that no temptation should induce him to occupy two livings at one time.

2d. That whenever he should obtain a cure of souls, he would, on no account, dispense with constant residence on the scene of his duty.

3d. Never to give a bond of resignation, or to make any contract or promise, merely to obtain church preferment.

It was not long before his religious deportment and amiable manners in private life recommended him to the notice of the Earl of Derby, who, in 1692, appointed him his domestic chaplain and tutor to Lord Strange, with a salary of £30. per annum, to which was soon after added £20. more, for the superintendence of the alms-houses at Latham; on which occasion, he increased the sum set apart for the use of the poor, from one-tenth to one-fifth of his income.

The manner in which he made this dedication is worthy of record. On the receipt of all monies, he regularly placed the portion designed for charitable uses into the drawer of a cabinet, with a note of the value to be kept sacred for the poor; and in this sacred repository, first a tenth, then a fifth, then a third, and, at last, one half, of his revenues were placed: and whenever he deposited the poor man's portion, it was with the same reverence as if it had been an offering to heaven.

Mr. Wilson's resolutions, as before stated, being entered into, from a conviction of their propriety, were ever after considered as matter of religious obligation, from which no motive could induce him to depart; as he fully proved, when, soon after Lord Derby offered him the valuable living of Baddesworth, in Yorkshire, his lordship intending

that he should still continue with him as chaplain and tutor to his son; but he refused to accept it, being inconsistent with his resolves against non-residence.

The same regard to the dictates of conscience influenced his whole behaviour, and it was not long before he gave his noble patron a proof that no selfish motives could deter him from pursuing the path of duty, or restrain his zeal in a good cause. In consequence of an extravagant expenditure, and great inattention to his affairs, Lord Derby had become deeply involved, and the tradesmen about his estates were many of them most seriously injured by the state of his accounts. Mr. Wilson beholding with equal concern the ruin of his patron's property, and the distress of his dependants, determined to hazard a respectful remonstrance, which, however, he was fully sensible was a step replete with danger to his hopes of preferment; yet, being unable to dispense with what he considered to be his duty, he waited on his lordship in his dressing-room; and, after a short conversation, left with him a letter, which is remarkable for the simplicity, good sense, and integrity, it portrays.\* The result of this unusual proceeding was equally honourable to the noble patron, and his upright dependant. The earl, convinced of his chaplain's probity, was aroused to a serious investigation of his affairs, in the arrangement of which he received his most willing assistance, and by the measures thenceforward adopted, Mr. Wilson was made the happy instrument by which the reputation and property of his patron were retrieved, and many of his tradesmen, by this timely arrangement, saved from bankruptcy.

Nor did his zeal and integrity miss of their reward; for, in the ensuing year, the earl offered him the bishopric of the Isle of Man, which had been vacant since the death of Dr. Levinz in the year 1698.

\* See Appendix, No. 1.

This offer, however, Mr. Wilson at first declined, believing the charge too great for his talents and strength, and thus the matter rested, till complaint being made to King William, that an incumbent had long been wanting for this diocese; and, in consequence, Lord Derby fearing the patronage would lapse to the crown, if an immediate nomination did not take place, he insisted on his chaplain accepting the preferment; and thus Mr. Wilson was, to use his own expression, *forced into the bishopric*. But however modest might be his estimate of his own abilities, it is certain, the history of human nature hardly presents an example where intellectual worth has been carried higher, or accompanied more completely, by the most admirable Christian virtues. The rules laid down for his self-government at his outset in life, were maintained with undeviating strictness; his considerations were not directed to what would make his sojournment on earth pleasant, but to what would render his transition to heaven certain; and to this great end all his labours for his own conduct, or the benefit of his fellow-creatures, were made to conduce.

To comprehend the nature of the sacrifice he made, when he became bishop of Man, one must take into consideration the state of the country to which he was banished; and contrast it with the society he renounced. On the one hand, he beheld a people depressed, and almost brutalized by poverty and neglect, with whose language he was unacquainted, and who were prepared to receive him with dislike and suspicion; and for this hopeless association, he had been compelled to resign the ease, elegance, and distinction, of a nobleman's mansion, where, from the lord to the lowest servant, all regarded him with respect and affection. Happily for Dr. Wilson, the first few years of his residence in the Isle of Man were cheered by the society of a woman, who seems to have been formed on the same model with himself, and to have participated in all his laborious acts of charity with equal interest and readi-

ness. The difficulty respecting the language was of no long existence, he was soon able to deliver his paternal exhortations in their own tongue; and by convincing his flock how much their real good was his sole object, he secured the affection and respect of the whole body, with the exception only of a very few whom interest or jealousy taught to oppose him.

When he first took possession of the see, he found the residence appropriated to him in ruins, the churches throughout the diocese in a falling state, the clergy sunk in ignorance and vice, the people not merely untaught and rustic, but greatly debased by the illicit trade then almost their sole pursuit, and which naturally led to a commerce with the worst characters of the adjacent countries; whilst the most extreme ignorance of religion, or even morality, pervaded all classes, or rather, the one great class; for, with the exception of the officers sent over by Lord Derby, to occupy the posts of government, the residue of the population were alike subject to the sudden influx of abundance, or as sudden depression of poverty.

The only sources of circulation were derived from fishing or smuggling, and the money thus acquired was almost invariably spent in intoxication, or vulgar dissipation, under the idea, that the same channels of gain were still open to them. It was to correct these fundamental errors, that Bishop Wilson strove to divert their attention to agricultural pursuits; and, as a first and most material step, in concert with the keys, he prevailed on Earl James, in the first year of his succession, to grant the act of settlement already mentioned. Whilst this question was under consideration, the bishop also occupied himself in restoring the dilapidated state of the revenues of the see, and rebuilding his house at Kirk Michael, as well as in repairing the churches, and renewing the discipline of the parochial schools. From the beginning he exacted his tithes, not with severity, but certainly with sufficient strictness;

and this unquestionably from a conscientious design to protect the dues of the church, and not to suffer that, which should be set apart for sacred purposes, to be diverted into other channels.

His house he enlarged, and rendered capable of receiving several young men, whom he educated under his own eye, and by his example, in order to have a succession of clergy, who might walk in the way he set before them; and thus he laid a solid foundation for the extension of knowledge, and practice of piety, in the next generation. In repairing the parish churches, he always set the example of a large subscription from his own purse, and exerted his influence where he knew there was ability in others, so as to obtain his end without exactions from the necessitous; nor were his exertions confined to these public acts: by frequent visits, he acquired a patriarchal influence in nearly every family in his diocese, and acquainted himself with the character and circumstances of each individual, to whom he administered aid, counsel, or reproof, as the case demanded; and so tempered his wisdom or severity with kindness and condescension, that he was soon regarded as a ministering angel, and his presence believed to produce a blessing wherever he came. His charity was unwearied; at his door the indigent were sure of relief, for he scrupulously observed the Scripture precept, 'never to turn his face from any poor man,' so that it was said of him, 'he kept beggars from every house but his own.' For a long time there was no medical man in the island, and he was in the constant habit of giving advice and medicines to the sick of all ranks; but when, at length, some persons in that line established themselves there, he willingly relinquished to them the care of the wealthy, but still afforded his aid to those who had nothing but prayers and blessings to give in return.

Soon after his accession to the bishopric, Dr. Wilson was united to Mary, the daughter of Thomas Patten, Esq.

of Warrington, and in the year 1699, she accompanied him to the island. This most amiable woman was, in every respect, the companion best fitted for him, pious, humble, and charitable as himself. By her he had four children, only one of whom (a son) arrived at maturity. The period of his connubial happiness was very short; Mrs. Wilson, at the end of five years, fell into a languishing complaint, in which she lingered nearly twelve months, and then resigned her pure spirit to her Maker.

This afflictive trial was borne as Bishop Wilson bore all the dispensations of Providence. Situated as he was, a greater bereavement can hardly be conceived! he had lost the only one who could participate both in his pleasures and his troubles, and his loss was irremediable; but, notwithstanding his keen sense of the affliction, he knew how to bless the hand that chastised him: he felt like a man, but 'not like one without hope.' His prayers during her sickness, and on her death, are amongst the finest examples of devout resignation; and in his meditations he drew such a character of the deceased, as, while it must have aggravated his regret, was yet calculated to elevate his hopes.\*

The annual return of his episcopal revenues in money did not exceed £300. Some necessary articles, and some particular objects of charity, could only be purchased or relieved in specie; but the poor of the island were fed and clothed, and the house, in general, supplied from his domains. Those who could weave and spin, found at Bishop's court the best market for their commodities, where they bartered the produce of their industry for corn.

Tailors and shoemakers were kept constantly at work in the house, to make into garments the cloth or leather† which his corn purchased; and these were distributed as

\* See Appendix, No. 2.

† The Manx then generally wore a shoe of untanned leather, laced on the foot, called *Curepas*.

gifts, or at low prices, according to the measure of their wants, to all who applied for them. He considered himself as the steward, not proprietor, of the revenues of his see, being resolved, from his first accession, not to heap up wealth for his children from a source, which the strictness of his religious principles led him to believe ought not to be appropriated.\* He kept a register of all the poor in his diocese, in which he entered the names and circumstances of his pensioners, and this he called 'Matricule Pauperum.'

During fifty-eight years of his pastoral life, he never, unless visited by sickness, omitted to perform some part of the church duty on every Sabbath day. In the year 1708, he framed those ecclesiastical constitutions, of which it was said by Lord Chancellor King, that 'if the ancient discipline of the church was lost elsewhere, it might be found in all its purity in the Isle of Man.' In September, 1708, he consecrated the chapel at Douglas, to which he had been a principal contributor. In 1709, the library at Castletown was finished, derived almost wholly from the same source. In 1711, he went to London, to settle some exorbitant business relating to the lord and people of the island, when he was greatly distinguished by Queen Anne, who offered him an English bishopric, which he declined, because, as he said, he 'felt that, with the blessing of God, he could do some good in the little spot where he then resided, whereas, should he be removed to a large sphere, he might be lost, and forget his duty to God, and to his flock.'

His paternal care of this favoured people appears in the various annual exhortations delivered by him to the clergy, in which it was his custom to comment upon the events of the past year, to admonish the negligent, and encourage the diligent; he insisted strenuously on the duties of visiting and catechising the uninformed, and furnished each

\* See his Address on this subject to his Children, in the Appendix, No. 23

parish with books of instruction and devotion ; but, above all things, required from his clergy the most scrupulous regard to their own character and conduct; as the only means of giving efficacy to their doctrine.

Nothing could more strongly evince his anxiety on these subjects than the prayers composed by him for the use of all the churches in his diocese, when certain persons lay under sentence of death for violations of the laws. He treated these events as national calamities, and employed his utmost exertions to render the examples thus necessarily made, of public utility to warn and awaken his whole flock. His own deep concern on these occasions must have been to the last degree impressive, and could not have failed to operate forcibly on the minds of the people.

So also on occasions of scarcity, which frequently occurred in those times, he evermore led the sufferers to God. He taught them to endure with patience whilst the chastisement lasted, and when the trial was at an end, he joined them in such fervent thanks as created in his hearers a perpetual sense of the superintendence of providence, and rendered even want and deprivation eventual blessings.

Those who have not lived as I have done on the scene of Bishop Wilson's apostolical exertions, who have not heard his praises, after the lapse of a whole century, still the theme of every tongue, and seen the still unfaded monuments of his benevolence, may be inclined to think these praises are exaggerated ; but I may safely appeal to the inhabitants of the Isle of Man, to say, whether I have not outtailed and omitted numberless instances of his piety and charity.

It is with infinite pain that I have now to change the scene, and from exhibiting the man of God in the delightful performance of his duty, followed by the praises and love of his people, and secure in the respect of all ranks, to describe him as persecuted, insulted, and even *imprisoned*. Whether his extraordinary piety, combined with



his deserved popularity, had excited the jealousy of his contemporaries in office; cannot now be known; but it seems more than probable some such predisposing cause must have existed, as the alleged ground of quarrel between him and Governor Horn appears so trifling, that it is hardly possible to believe it should have been suffered to disturb the peace of a man, whose exemplary character had at that time secured him the applause of persons of the first distinction in all parts of Europe.

A story is current in the island, which offers a kind of solution to these difficulties, but being unattested by the historian of Dr. Wilson, or any other writer since his time, I can neither venture to insert as an unquestionable fact, nor can I wholly pass over what is universally believed, where every particular relative to the bishop is preserved with religious care.

It is said (and in this particular the author of his life concurs) that when he took possession of the see of Man, he found the revenues in a state of dilapidation; the tithes in particular had been suffered to lapse from the neglect of former incumbents: and a practice had crept in of wholly reserving the estates of the principal civil officers from this species of taxation; which exemptions, founded only on custom, were termed prescriptive rights, and at length came to be set up as indefeasible. The first efforts of the bishop for the improvement of the impoverished revenues of his church, were directed against these powerful opponents.

In the prosecution of this matter, much animosity was engendered on both sides; and there are some documents extant which certainly bear out the relation. That a man of the bishop's upright and independent spirit should have set himself to abrogate claims merely founded in power on one side, and admitted from weakness on the other, is very highly probable; that he should also have gone resolutely to the source of the evil, is consistent with his whole

course of acting and living; but that he should have conducted this matter with the asperity sometimes ascribed to him, I find it difficult to believe. According to the ecclesiastical laws of the island, a process may be commenced in the bishop's court, which does not even require a hearing on both sides, or a notice to the defendant; and on an *ex parte* statement, an order *may* pass against a person complained of, which if not implicitly obeyed, subjects them to imprisonment during the pleasure of the court, or till an appeal is accepted to the metropolitan. And it is said, that under authority of this law, (certainly existing, but not often acted upon,) Bishop Wilson, in consequence of the resistance of the then Clerk of the Rolls to the payment of his tythe, issued his precept, and committed him close prisoner to the dungeon at Kirk Germain. In confirmation of this statement, a petition appears on record from the Clerk of the Rolls, complaining of such treatment, and praying to be heard in person against the demand; to which petition the answer, signed by the bishop's own hand, is, *that such hearing was not customary, nor would be granted.*

In what manner this affair ended I have not been able to ascertain; but as most of these prescriptive rights were annihilated, in all probability the bishop obtained a victory, as in justice and reason he ought to have done: for the iniquity of assessing the poor and exempting the rich must be obvious to all.

In the present times, when the indefeasible rights of man are so well established, perhaps we may wish that what it was perfectly just and proper to do, had been done with more regard to those rights. We are naturally shocked at the idea of claims, however well founded, being arbitrarily established; and, perhaps, we must also admit, that if there was a blemish in the character of Bishop Wilson, (and what human creature is without one,) it consisted in an attachment, approaching to bigotry, to the

canons of the church. In exacting conformity to ecclesiastical laws, he followed both the spirit and the letter. It was enough that the church had decreed a point to render even debate on the subject a sacrilege in his eyes. He shrunk with horror from every question that might by possibility disturb the faith either of himself, or his flock : in his dread of the incursions of infidelity, he even excluded discussion.

It is well known that he suspended a clergyman in the island, for hazarding a doubt, in one of his discourses, whether the power of granting absolution for sin had really devolved from the apostles to their successors in the ministry.

But after all, these mistakes, if such they were, sprung from a mind zealously devoted to the cause of genuine religion. Dr. Wilson had settled his belief on conviction, as his whole course of acting through a long life evidently proved. He knew the consequences of agitating doubt in ignorant minds, such as he had to govern : he saw that to give efficacy to his doctrine, he must follow the example of his Saviour, and "teach as one having authority;" and according to the character of the times in which he lived, he could admit of no compromise. Controversy was not then, as now, under the control of moderation, or even good manners ; it was a species of warfare, in the prosecution of which, all means, whether of insult or injury, were considered as lawful weapons ; and such in all probability had been the conduct of his opponents in the difference arising on the subject of tythes. In the lapse of time all that is not upon record is lost, and we see only a severe infliction, without knowing any of the aggravation that led to it, or the circumstances which might make it necessary. One thing, however, is obvious, that had the bishop exceeded his authority, the means of obtaining redress against him were open and easy, and that this was never attempted. The use he made of the improved revenues of

his see are also a proof, written in unfading characters, of the disinterested purity of his motives; and at any rate the course of retaliation adopted against him, if such it was, was wholly unjustifiable, as being founded neither in law or equity; besides which, the number of years that had elapsed from the time when Dr. Wilson established these offensive claims, and the changes which had taken place in the governing power, leads one to doubt whether the extraordinary persecution he afterwards underwent could have originated in this source.

The history of this affair, as it may be gathered from his life, is as follows: In 1719, Mrs. Horn, the wife of the governor, having some quarrel with one Mrs. Puller, she carried her resentment so far as to charge her opponent with a criminal intimacy with one Sir James Poole, then also resident in Castletown; and had so much influence with the Archdeacon Horrobin as to prevail on him to refuse the sacrament to the supposed offender, on account of this accusation. Mrs. Puller, mortified and exasperated by this public disgrace, had recourse to the mode pointed out by the ecclesiastical constitutions to establish her innocence, namely, by oath; which she and Sir James Poole tendered before the bishop, with compurgators of the best character: and no evidence being produced by their accusers to establish the charge, though repeatedly called on to this purpose, they were in consequence cleared of the imputation, and sentence passed against Mrs. Horn, as inventor of the calumny, for which she was required to ask pardon of those she had traduced: but, far from complying with this moderate requisition, the governor's lady peremptorily refused obedience, and openly expressed the utmost contempt both for the bishop and the censures of the church. For this indecent disrespect to the laws, which her elevated situation rendered the more offensive, she was in her turn banished from the altar, till atonement should be made. Notwithstanding which, the archdeacon, out of

pique to the bishop, or for some other unworthy motive, received her to the communion.

An insult to himself the bishop would have had no difficulty to forgive, but disobedience to the church he could not consistently overlook; and after some further discussion, he was compelled to suspend the archdeacon; who in a rage, instead of referring the matter to the Archbishop of York, the proper judge in ecclesiastical affairs, threw himself on the civil power, where he was assured of support in his contumacy.

In the interim, the bishop had appointed the Rev. Mr. Ross to officiate in the chapel at Castletown, during the archdeacon's suspension; but the governor refused to deliver the keys to him, and kept the chapel shut up altogether. On which the bishop made a strong remonstrance at the Tynwald court against this entrenchment on the spiritual authority. This document, which is dated June 25, 1792, being addressed to the governor at the Tynwald,\* was not noticed but at the conclusion of the meeting; and when nearly all the keys and most of the council had retired, Captain Horn, with those who remained, made an order, *in the name of the whole*, that the bishop should be fined £50, and his two vicars £20 each, for illegal and extra-judicial proceedings in suspending Archdeacon Herrobin. And on the 28th of the same month, on their refusal to pay the penalty, they were all three committed to Castle Rushen. The laws of the island must have been in a most indeterminate state, when such proceedings as these could be carried into effect, on a sentence actually disavowed by nearly all the persons pretended to be concurring in it, and of which no previous notice had been given to the defendants, to afford them an opportunity of rebutting the charges brought against them.

The concern of the people on this insult being offered to

\* See Appendix, No. 4.

their beloved pastor, amounted to agony. They assembled in crowds round the prison walls, and it was with infinite difficulty they were prevented levelling the governor's house with the ground; nor was it preserved at last but by the exhortations of the bishop, who being permitted to address them through a window of his prison, entreated their forbearance and submission, telling them he would "appeal unto Cæsar," (meaning the king,) "and had no doubt he would vindicate his cause, if he had acted right." But though he restrained them by his influence from open violence, nothing could allay their anxiety. All business throughout the island was at a stand, one sole object attracted the attention of the whole community, and nothing but personal and almost daily conviction of his safety, could satisfy the individual apprehensions of his flock, who resorted from all parts in hundreds to the walls of the castle; nor would they depart without his benediction and counsel.\*

With what sensations governor Horn must have beheld these scenes of public distress and gratitude, it is not difficult to conceive; but it is wonderful that it should have produced no effect on his conduct; for so far was he from relaxing any part of the persecution to which he had subjected those divines, that he actually detained them two months; and during that time dictated every possible aggravation of their sufferings, refusing admittance either to friends or servants, and treating them in all respects as persons confined for high treason.

The case meanwhile was fully stated by the bishop in a petition to the king in council, which was, however, dismissed on the ground of informality, inasmuch as it should have been addressed to the Earl of Derby; but it was recommended by the law officers of the crown, that the

\* The bishop afterwards declared, that he never governed his diocese so well, or instructed his people with such effect as from the walls of his prison.

bishop and vicars should deposit the fines as a means of procuring their release, under an assurance that such compliance should not prejudice their appeal. Accordingly they did pay down the money ; and being then set at liberty, they immediately repaired to England to prosecute the affair before the proper tribunal.

In a subsequent petition, the bishop states that his reasons for not appealing to the lord of the isle, in the first place, were, that as the prosecution against him was conducted by the earl's attorney, he did suppose it was with his lordship's concurrence, more especially as the fines, if legally assessed, would have belonged to his lordship also.

That the bishop judged right in believing the matter was to a certain extent countenanced by the earl, is rendered evident by what followed ; and the only justification, or rather apology, to be offered is, that Lord Derby must have been deceived by misrepresentations, which, however, ought not for a moment to have counterbalanced the high and well established reputation of the bishop. However, on finding it necessary to carry his appeal through this channel, the bishop and his vicars went into Lancashire, and repeatedly presented themselves at the mansion of the earl, who, nevertheless, refused them all access to his person, nor would he even examine into the nature of their complaint ; but after keeping them in attendance from August to November, he at last peremptorily refused to accept the appeal on any terms. On which they were obliged to resort to London, and offer a third petition to the king.

The Attorney General then gave a regular notice to Lord Derby of the proceedings, and demanded from him if he had any knowledge of the affair, or any thing to object against the appeals being entertained. To which his lordship returned an answer in substance as follows :

“That not having had any previous intimation of the proceedings from any of the constituted authorities in the

Isle of Man, he could give no answer as to the complaint; but that he believed the persons complained of to be honest and well-meaning men; and had no doubt the matter in the bishop's petition was misrepresented."

The result of this iniquitous business, after two years' prosecution, attended with heavy expenses and much personal vexation; was, that the whole proceedings were declared to be illegal, and the fines were in course reversed; but for recovery of damages against the governor and officers, even on costs of suit, no provision was made: but these matters were to be referred to a fresh suit at law, to which the bishop had no inclination to resort. All personal offences or losses he could easily forgive and overlook; his sole object had been to establish the discipline of the church, and having succeeded in that, he had no further resentment to gratify. The suspension of Archdeacon Morabin was taken off by him after proper submission; but whether Mrs. Horn submitted to the terms enjoined; I have never been able to discover. I conclude, however, that the bishop would not relinquish a point of such importance to the established discipline of the church.

One cannot contemplate the issue of this extraordinary proceeding without sensations of regret, that the principal actors in it should have escaped without due punishment. Nor can I help reverting to the case of Captain Christian, wherein a course so decidedly different was pursued by the court of England. In his affair an irregular appeal was received in the first instance, though offered by a person having no personal interest in the prosecution; and on that petition a reprieve was granted. In a subsequent stage, the judges who had passed an illegal sentence were fined and imprisoned, and full restitution made, with all costs and charges to the heirs of the sufferer. But here, in an

\* The doctor Christian, who had fled to England to avoid being a party in the judgment.



instance of admitted injustice and tyranny, exerted on a man rendered sacred both by his function and the virtues of a long unblemished life, the court declares itself unequal to the task of redressing his grievances, beyond the reversal of a paltry fine, and leave all the rest as they found it, with hardly a slight reprimand to the offenders. In considering this outrage, a natural comparison arises between the times when such misconduct could be so passed over, and the present, when notwithstanding the violent cry raised against existing defects in the government and breaches of the constitution, I think no one will deny, that if such a scene was enacted in one of our remotest dependencies, and on the person of the most obscure individual, it would raise a clamour which nothing but the fullest redress to the injured, and punishment of the delinquents, could pacify or allay.

Bishop Wilson felt the consequences of the rigours he had undergone during the remainder of his life, having contracted a rheumatic disease from the dampness of the prison, which disabled the fingers of his right hand. The expenses also fell very heavy on him, being in the whole more than £600; of which he received £300 in a subscription, set on foot without his knowledge, to assist in carrying on the cause.

In the year 1789, the clergy of the island were thrown into great trouble by the death of the Earl of Derby, who leaving no issue, the lordship of Man devolved to the Duke of Athol; and by this event they were nearly deprived of their subsistence. Their livings consisting of one third of the impropriations, which had been purchased from a former earl, in the episcopate of Dr. Barrow; an estate belonging to the Derby family in Lancashire having been collaterally bound as security for the payment of the annual returns. On the separation of the island from the earldom, the Duke of Athol claimed the impropriations as an inseparable appendage to his estate and royalty. The

deed of conveyance was unfortunately missing from the records, nor could any title be made out either to the original purchase or the collateral security.

Under this alarm the clergy would have taken a very small sum in lieu of their claims; and the bishop mentions in a letter to his son, how much they were troubled to find proper persons to serve in the ministry; people being entirely discouraged from bringing up their sons to the church. But at length, by the unceasing industry and perseverance of the diocesan and his son, the original deeds were discovered to have been lodged in the Rolls Chapel, London; and being immediately exemplified under the great seal of England, the security of the impropriations was established to the great relief of the parties concerned.

In 1740, a severe scarcity occurred in the island, where in fact the corn raised being always far short of the consumption, whenever (as it happened at that time) an embargo was laid on the English ports, great necessity was sure to ensue. The bishop distributed his own grain as far as it would go, and bought up an additional quantity at a high price, to sell out at a reduced one, but all his efforts were inadequate to relieve the pressure of distress. To increase the calamity, an epidemic disease broke out, and as he was the *only physician* in the island, his bodily fatigues must have been incessant. In this deplorable state, a petition\* was preferred to the king in council, by the bishop's son, (who was chaplain to George II.), that the embargo might be taken off to a certain extent: a supply of corn was, at length, obtained just in time to save the whole people from starvation. The Duke of Athol also exerted himself for their relief, and received due acknowledgment from the keys on the occasion.

In 1743, the bishop wrote a letter of thanks to his

\* See Appendix, No. 3.

majesty personally, for the distinguished honour he had conferred on his son, in making him a prebend of Westminster.\* The bishop's apostolic character had, at this time, secured him the veneration of all ranks; and the most exalted personages in various parts of Europe bore testimony to his virtues. In the Isle of Man, the people were so strongly persuaded that a larger portion of the blessing of heaven attended on him, that they never began their harvest till he did, hoping to participate, through him, in these advantages: and if by chance he passed near any field where they were at work, their labours were suspended for a moment, whilst they asked his benediction; and then renewed, under an increased conviction, that for one day, at least, they would be prosperous.†

At the advanced age of eighty, he gives the following account of his daily labours in a letter to his son.

"I bless God I am pretty well. I preached on Palm Sunday; administered the sacrament on Easter Eve; preached and administered the sacrament on Easter Day at Peel; the next Sunday at Kirk Michael; and last Sunday at Jurby, when I performed the whole service."

In 1744, he purchased some land, which he added to the living of Jurby. In 1755, his solicitations, added to those of his son, obtained a renewal of the royal bounty to the clergy, which had been suspended for several years.

He continued to ride on horseback till the year 1760. In 1761, he wrote a letter to the new governor, in which he apologised for his neglect of personal attendance, under

\* See Appendix, No. 6, for the letter to the king, and also one to his son, on the same occasion.

† The same reverential regard obtained even in the great city of London, where, during his last visit, crowds would flock around him, with the cry of "Bless me, too, my lord."

the plea of his great age: indeed, the scene of his earthly existence was now drawing to a close; and with what delight he must have contemplated the prospect of transmission from time to eternity, may be partly conceived, when we review the events of a life uniformly devoted to the service of God, and the good of his fellow-creatures. The immediate cause of his death was a cold, caught in walking in his garden in very damp weather. His end was easy and tranquil; it was like his life, devoted to prayer and praise, till he fell asleep to wake in heaven.

Words are inadequate to paint the anguish of his flock, when thus deprived of their beloved pastor. He was attended to his grave by the whole population of the island, without a single exception, unless of those who, by age or sickness, were incapacitated. The tenants of his nearest demesnes were appointed to bear him to his last earthly home; but at every resting place a contest ensued amongst the most respectable persons present, and happy were they who could perform this last sad office for their friend and benefactor. He was interred in Kirk Michael churchyard, at the east end near the chancel; and over his grave a square tomb-stone was placed, surrounded by iron rails, on which is the following inscription:

On the sides,

"Sleeping in Jesus, here lieth the Body of THOMAS WILSON, D. D. Lord Bishop of this Isle, who died March 5, 1755, aged 93; and in the 55th year of his Consecration."

At the ends,

"This Monument was erected by his Son, THOMAS WILSON, a native of this Parish, who, in obedience to the express commands of his father, declines giving him the character he justly deserved."

"Let this Island speak the rest."

On the decease of Bishop Wilson, the patronage of the see being vested in the Duke of Athol, his grace paid a compliment to his memory, most honourable to himself. From a conscientious desire that the benefits effected by the late excellent incumbent should proceed under the auspices of his successor, he waved his right of nomination, and, disregarding the many claimants who were, no doubt, looking up in hopes of a prize, now rendered both valuable and honourable, he referred it to the bench of bishops, requesting them to point out a man worthy of wearing the mitre which Bishop Wilson had adorned.

In consequence of which request, Dr. Mark Hildealey was unanimously recommended by them, and appointed by his grace, being consecrated Bishop of Man, April 26, 1755. On coming to his diocese, his sentiments were thus expressed :

“I know it is sometimes said, that ‘a person succeeds with disadvantage to an office which has been filled by a predecessor of remarkably eminent qualities.’ I must take leave to think the reverse as nearer truth ; at least, with respect to the instance I am about to refer to, namely, my coming after the great and good Dr. Wilson to this see of Man ; forasmuch as I see many excellent things done and established to my hand, in regard to the government of the church, besides the example which, by the traces he has left, his lordship still lives to show, and which I will endeavour, as far as I am able, to follow, though I am sensible it must be ‘*non passibus nequis*.’ ”

The first great work Dr. Hildealey sat himself to complete was, the translation of the Scriptures into Manx, begun by Dr. Wilson, who, at his own expence, had printed the Gospel of St. Matthew, and prepared the other Evangelists, and the Acts of the Apostles ; and this, with the assistance of the clergy, he was happy enough to finish. It might, indeed, be truly said of this good man, that he had caught the mantle of the prophet as he ascended to

Heaven, though he had but just completed the great work above-mentioned, when he was called to give an account of his stewardship, having often been heard to declare, that he only wished his existence might be protracted till the Scriptures were finished in the native language; and it is extremely remarkable, that he received the last part of the Bible from his publisher on Saturday, November 28, 1772, on which occasion he emphatically sung his *Nunc Dimittis* in the presence of his whole family; and next evening, after family prayers, he read a lecture on the uncertainty of human life, observing, that many people were in a moment deprived of their senses and existence; and thus, in a prophetic manner, foretelling his own decease, for, on the following Monday, he was seized with a stroke of the palsy, which deprived him of his perception. In this situation he lingered till that day week, when he died, and was buried according to his own directions, by the side of Bishop Wilson, that he might be united in death with that man whose example he had endeavoured to imitate whilst living.\*

On the death of Dr. Hildesley, the Rev. Dr. Richmond obtained promotion to the Isle of Man. But on the period of his episcopacy I take no pleasure in expatiating; the unbending haughtiness of his disposition formed so decided a contrast to the characters of his predecessors, that he

\* When Dr. Hildesley was at Scarborough, in 1764, the following lines were stuck up in the Spa room, which, being taken down by his sister, were found amongst his papers after his death, with these words written on them by the bishop:—“*From vain-glory in human applause, Deus me liberet et conservet.*”

If to paint folly till her friends despise,  
And virtue till her foes would fain be wise;  
If angel-sweetness, if a godlike mind,  
That melts with Jesus over all mankind—  
If this can form a bishop—and it can,  
Though laws were wanting—Hildesley is the man.

excited a general sentiment of aversion in the minds of his people, which must have defeated the efficacy of his doctrines, however pure. He died, and was succeeded by

Dr. George Mason, who sat till the year 1785. The last part of his life was disgraced by a scene of necessity, and derangement of circumstances, utterly inconsistent with his station. In his hands were placed the funds subscribed towards building the church dedicated to St. George, on an elevation above Douglas; and by his insolvency and death, the persons employed in that erection were actually deprived of the sums due to them, to their great injury, and, in one or two instances, their complete ruin.

The last incumbent was, the Rev. Claudius Crigan; a man of simple and unostentatious manners; but, from the absence of all energy of mind or character, not very well calculated to sustain his dignity, or embellish his office. He sat twenty-eight years, and then resigned his life and his see, without exciting any considerable regret in the minds of his flock.

The present bishop is a gentleman of distinguished rank and polished manners; he is a son of the late highly respectable and Rev. Lord George Murray, bishop of St. David's. At the death of Dr. Crigan, the bishop-elect being under the age at which, by the canons, he might assume the pall, the see was held unoccupied for twelve months.

The church of Man is governed under a bishop, by an archdeacon, two vicars general, and sixteen ministers; the militia under the governors, by three majors and eighteen captains of parishes; the towns by the four constables; and the civil constitution by two deometers, six coroners, seventeen moars or bailiffs, with several inferior officers under them.

The Bishops of Man, besides their spiritual jurisdiction, are barons of this isle. In all trials for life they may assist

in the temporal court till the sentence. They hold courts in their own names for their temporalities. If any of their tenants are tried for life, they may demand them from the king's court, and try them by a jury of their own tenants; and in case of conviction, the lands they hold are forfeited to the bishop.

The arms of the bishopric are upon three ascents, the Virgin Mary standing with her arms extended between two pillars, on the dexter whereof is a church in base, the ancient arms of Man.

The archdeacon is the second spiritual magistrate. He has, in all inferior cases, alternate jurisdiction with the bishop; and many other privileges, as well in temporals as spirituals. He holds his courts either in person or by his official, as the bishop does his by his vicars-general, which are always two, one for each division of the isle, and are in the nature of chancellors to the bishop; these with the registers compose the consistory court, and have under their jurisdiction seventeen parishes.

There were formerly many chapels in the isle; and there are now in each town one standing, as also one in the centre of the land dedicated to St. John, near which, on a little hill, they hold their Tynwald court, or public assembly, at which their laws are promulged on every midsummer-day, as being raised with several ascents for the different orders of people, and is indeed a pretty curiosity.

But, above all, the abbeyes seem to have exceeded the ability of the country, among which the abbey of St. Mary, of Rushen, was the chief. It consisted of twelve monks and an abbot, who at first were meanly endowed, and lived mostly by their labour, but in process of time they had good revenues. The buildings are very handsome, the rooms convenient, and the chapel larger than any thing (the cathedral excepted) in the island. It was called the daughter of Furness, which is said to be the mother of this and many other abbeyes in the Isle of Man.



In the records thereof is found, that one John Fargher was Abbot of Rushen and deputy governor; and in a piece of timber in Kirk Arbory, which separates the church from the chancel, one Thomas Radcliffe was Abbot of Rushen.

These abbots were barons of the island, held courts for their temporalities in their own names, might demand a prisoner from the king's court, if their own tenant, and try him by a jury of their own tenants, as the steward of the abbey lands may do at this day.

The Prioress of Douglas was a baroness of the island, and enjoyed the same privilege. The priory was said to be built by St. Bridget, when she came to receive the veil of virginity from St. Maughold. The situation of the nunnery is much the pleasantest in the island.

There were likewise the friars minors of Beemaken, and a small plantation of the Cistercian order in Kirk Christ-lez Ayre, but neither of these had baronies annexed to them.

There were likewise several foreign barons, as before-mentioned; but few or none of them appear now, nor have any lands or tenants to represent.

Thus I have given my readers the history, constitution, and settlement of this little state in all its branches, civil, military, and ecclesiastic; with all the subordinate officers necessarily employed therein, by which the people in church and state are to be governed; with an historical account of their kings and bishops.



A CATALOGUE  
OF THE  
**GOVERNORS OF THE ISLE OF MAN.**

*Since Sir John Stanley's time, till the year 1741,*

WITH THE  
NORTH AND SOUTH DIVISIONS.



<b>J</b> OHN Letherland, Lieut. . . . .	A. D. 1417
John Fasakerley, Lieut. . . . .	1418
John Walton, Lieut. . . . .	1422
Henry Byron, Lieut. . . . .	1428
Note.—I find no record from this time, till the year 1492	
Peter Dutton, Lieut. . . . .	1496
Henry Radcliff, Abbot of Rushen, Deputy . . . . .	1497
Randolph Rushton, Capt. . . . .	1505
Sir John Ireland, Knight, Lieut. . . . .	1506
John Ireland, Lieut. . . . .	1516
Randolph Rushton, Capt. . . . .	1517
Thomas Danisport, Capt. . . . .	1518
Richard Holt, Lieut. . . . .	1526
John Fleming, Capt. . . . .	1529
Thomas Sherburn, Lieut. . . . .	1530
Henry Bradley, Deputy-Lieut. . . . .	1535
Henry Stanley, Capt. . . . .	1535
George Stanley, Capt. . . . .	1536
Thomas Stanley, Knt. Lieut. . . . .	1537
George Stanley, Capt. . . . .	1539

Thomas Tyldsley, Deputy	1540
William Stanley, Deputy	1544
Henry Stanley, Capt.	1552
Thomas Stanley, Knt. Lieut.	1562
Richard Ashton, Capt.	1566
Thomas Stanley, Knt. Lieut.	1567
Edward Tarbock, Capt.	1569
John Hanmer, Capt.	1575
Richard Sherburn, Capt.	1580
Cuth. Gerrard, Capt.	1592
Thomas Martinier, Deputy	1592

Note.—1591, Richard Aderton was admitted and sworn lieutenant under the captain, by my lord's directions, for all martial affairs.

The Hon. William Stanley, Capt. afterwards Earl of Derby	1593
Randolph Stanley, Capt.	1594
Sir Thomas Gerrard, Knt. Capt.	1596
Cuth. Gerrard, Deputy	1596
Thomas Gerrard, Knt. Capt.	1597
Robert Molyneux, Deputy	1597
Cuth. Gerrard, Capt.	1599
Robert Molyneux, Deputy	1599
Robert Molyneux, Capt.	1600
John Ireland and John Birchall, Governors, jointly by patent from the king.	1600
John Ireland, Lieut. and Capt.	1610
Robert Molyneux, Capt.	1612
Edward Fletcher, Deputy	1621
Edward Fletcher, Governor	1622
Sir Ferdinand Liege, Knt. and Capt.	1623
Edward Fletcher, Deputy	1625
Edward Holmewood, Capt.	1626
Edward Fletcher, Deputy	1627
Edward Christian, Lieut. and Capt.	1628
Evan Christian, Deputy	1634

Sir Charles Gerrard, Knt. Capt.	1635
John Sharpless, Deputy	1636
Radcliff Gerrard, Capt.	1639
John Greenbalgh, Governor	1640
Sir Philip Musgrave, Knt. and Bart.	1651
Samuel Smith, Deputy Governor	1652

Note.—That my Lord Fairfax made commissioners  
for the governing of the isle this year, viz.  
James Challoner, Robert Dinely, Esq. Jonathan  
Witton, Clerk.

Matthew Cadwell, Governor	1655
William Christian, Governor	1656
James Challoner, Governor	1658

#### AFTER THE RESTORATION OF THE KING.

Roger Nowell, Governor	A. D. 1660
Richard Stevenson, his Deputy	1660
Henry Nowell, Deputy for one part of the year, and Thomas Stanley for the other part	1663
Bishop Barrow, Governor	1664
Henry Nowell, his Deputy	1664
Henry Nowell, Governor	1669
Henry Stanley, Governor	1677
Robert Heywood, Governor	1678
Roger Kenyon, Esq. Governor	1691
Colonel Sankey, Governor.	
The Hon. Capt. Cranston, Governor.	
Robert Maudesley, Esq. Governor	
Capt. Alexander Horn, Governor.	
Major Floyd, Governor.	
Thomas Horton, Esq. Governor.	
The Hon. James Murray, Esq. Governor	1741

## THE NORTH DIVISION.

Kirk Patrick;        }  
 Kirk German,        } Dedicated to those saints.

Kirk Michael.

St. Mary of Ballaugh, a Parsonage.

St. Patrick Jurby.

Kirk Andrew's, the Archdeaconry.

Kirk Bride, dedicated to St. Bridget, a Parsonage.

Kirk Christ Lez-Ayre.

## THE SOUTH DIVISION.

Kirk Maughold, dedicated to St. Maughold the third bishop.

Kirk Lonan, dedicated to Lomanus, said by the tradition to succeed St. Maughold in the bishopric, the son of Tygrida, one of the three holy sisters of St. Patrick, and thought to be the first Bishop of Trym in Ireland.

Kirk Conchan, dedicated to Concha, sister to St. Martin, Bishop of Tours, and mother to St. Patrick.

Kirk Braddan, which signifies a Salmon in the Manx language.

Kirk Marrown, dedicated to that saint.

Kirk St. Anne.

Kirk Malew, dedicated to St. Lupus.

Kirk Arbory, dedicated to St. Columbus.

Kirk Christ, Rushen.

*Review of the State of the Island under the dominion of the House of Stanley—Excessive Alarm excited by the revestment in Great Britain—the revival of Prosperity and general amelioration of Character and Manners resulting from a better order of things—Prejudice against the Duke of Athol, whence it originates, and how maintained.*

**H**AVING brought the history of the island down to the time when it underwent its last great change, I shall endeavour to give a summary view of the condition in which the Manx people stood, when the power of the house of Stanley was extinguished.

As I have before observed, the population had been essentially reduced by the Scottish usurpation, and the inhabitants were levelled to a class of mere peasants, who, at the time the Stanleys came into possession, were too poor to emigrate, and too ignorant to effect their own improvement. Their new lords, therefore, claimed an indefeasible right in the whole landed property, and appear to have considered the people in much the same point of view, that a Russian noble regards the vassals on his estates, as creatures existing only to cultivate lands for his benefit, in which they had, individually, neither right or interest. In this state of humiliation, the Manx remained with little variation for three centuries, employing themselves in fishing during the short season the herrings were on the coast, and for the rest of the year devoted to complete idleness, except the trifling garrison duty exacted from each, whilst the women performed the task of cultivating just so much land as, on the closest calculation, would supply the wants of the family, and pay the lord's rent. They dwelt in mud

huts, without doors or windows, merely serving the single purpose of defending them from the inclemencies of the weather. There was at this time an essential difference between the Manx and the Scottish Clans, inhabiting the out-isles, formerly associated under the same government, and, probably, then actuated by the same habits and manners.

In those isolated spots, though the land belonged altogether to one chief, yet were his interests so bound up by participation and relationship with those of his dependents, that his superiority seemed to be reflected back, and to give to the whole community an elevation proportioned to his own. On the contrary, the Lord of Man, for many ages, came amongst his people, but to coerce their persons, or to subtract from their little gains : in comparison to him, they were a distinct and inferior race of beings, who could only gaze on him in his elevated sphere, as a meteor or a comet, likely to endanger or alarm, but without a promise of advantage to mark his track. So circumstanced, they had quietly taken the evil with the good, neither stimulated by comparison, nor encouraged by hope, till about twenty years before Bishop Wilson's time, when a new channel was opened by a band of adventurers who came from Liverpool, and settled themselves in Douglas, for the avowed purpose of carrying on an illicit trade ; and by the advantages they held out, they soon induced ships to and from the East and West Indies, as well as those engaged in the Guinea trade, to touch at the island, where they found a ready market for part of their cargoes, which were afterwards conveyed in Manx vessels (and by these means eluding the custom dues) into other countries, as well as Great Britain and Ireland.

The profits attending this nefarious traffic were soon perceived to be so large, that the natives, awakened from their stupor, resolved to participate with the strangers. The lord of the isle also, deriving advantage from certain

small duties paid to him, was little concerned to suppress it; and the people, already trained up to the sea, and inured to hardship, were well calculated to encounter the dangers of such an employ. But, in a pursuit of this kind, it is obvious the morals of the nation must be put to extreme hazard: it was impossible a commerce, founded on trick and fraud, could be prosecuted, without an entire surrender of principle; and the conviction that such was the case, gave to the good Bishop Wilson, as may be easily imagined, the most lively concern. In a letter to his son, dated in 1742, he says,

“Our people are mightily intent upon enlarging the harbours at Peel, Ramsay, and Douglas; but the iniquitous trade carried on, to the injury and damage of the crown, will hinder the blessing of God from falling upon us.”

He earnestly strove to divert their awakened activity into another channel; but, in this particular, all his influence could impose no restraint. The gains and profits were obvious and present, the injury done to a government whose relationship they scarcely admitted was founded upon abstract principles, which they had a difficulty, as well as disinclination, to comprehend; and it became evident, that only the strong arm of power could extirpate this nest of plunderers. On this ground, the reversion of the island in the crown of Great Britain was proposed, and carried into effect, as we have related, greatly against the wishes of its former possessors; and yet their reluctance bore no comparison to that with which the change was regarded by the natives. This feeling was also considerably aggravated by the secrecy observed on the part of the Duke of Athol or his officers, in relation to the treaty whilst pending. It appears, by evidence given in before the English commissioners in 1782, that the first news of this intended sale was only a slight rumour, which reached the island in January, 1785; in consequence whereof, a requisition was made to the governor to con-



were the keys, with which he did not comply; that, in the month of March following, the proceedings in Parliament becoming a matter of notoriety, and when, in fact, the consent of the duke and dutchesse had been given to the transfer, a second petition was presented for assembling the legislature of the island, which was at length granted; and, in consequence of this meeting, two gentlemen\* were deputed by the keys to attend Parliament on behalf of the Manx, accompanied by a merchant as agent for commercial affairs.

To have thus transferred a nation and its inhabitants, without the compliment of informing them of the change about to take place, appears a stretch of arbitrary power hardly reconcilable with our ideas of civil liberty. It is true, that when complaint of this disregard to their claims and feelings was made to the duke, he expressed some surprise, and declared he *had given* direction to one of his officers to make the matter known in the island, whilst it was yet undetermined. This officer, when applied to, alleged his obedience to the order; but, on further investigation, it came out, that he had only acquainted the governor, and between these two gentlemen the secret had rested till the whole was effected, and remonstrance had become equally vain and useless.

Soon after this event, an act passed both houses of Parliament, not merely calculated to root out the illicit trade, but imposing such severe restrictions on the regular commerce of the island, that the people, previously alarmed and agitated, were now driven to such despair, that they believed their ruin to be complete; insular property sunk to the lowest state of depreciation, and nearly all who had the means of removal, began to entertain the idea of emigration, when, as a last effort, three other commissioners were dispatched to England, to represent the miserable

\* Mr. Moore and Mr. Conchan.

condition of the inhabitants; and endeavour to obtain some redress of their grievances.

Happily, this last remonstrance was attended with success; some clauses of unnecessary severity in the act complained of were repealed, and certain encouragements held out to the fair trader, which opened a brighter prospect, and effectually relieved the public mind. From this time, the character and situation of the Manx have been gradually improving; the advantages of being governed by a great nation, instead of a petty lord, is universally felt. Those who had already accumulated large gains from the contraband trade, were, by the change, obliged either to sit down upon the lands they had acquired, and turn their thoughts to agriculture, or to embark their capital in regular commerce. Very few sunk back into the state of apathy formerly indulged. Industry, though ill-directed, had been awakened; some luxuries, too, had crept in, which, though not always beneficial to individual character, are still, up to a certain height, universally productive of national advantage.

But whatever pursuits were superinduced, the herring fishery, supported by ancient habits and early association, was regarded as the chief good; and to this pursuit, requiring neither talent nor labour, the mass of the peasantry still confined their hopes and exertions; on which account, agriculture, with its moderate returns and permanent advantages, was yet almost entirely neglected.

The Duke of Athol, in making a sale of the island, had reserved all his feudal rights as lord of the soil, with certain other profits coming under the same description. But the enmity excited in the minds of his late subjects was too active a principle not to produce continual resistance against these claims, which, no longer backed by sovereign power, were met by every species of opposition; so that it became necessary in 1790, to resort to Parliament to establish his mutilated rights, which was accord-

ingly done by the duke, who further complained, that the sum given to his ancestor was greatly beneath the value of the revenue ceded to the crown. His petition, therefore, went to obtain an additional compensation, and also to establish those manorial rights, which, being unnecessary to the purposes for which the reversionment was made, were never intended to be disturbed.

On this petition much contention ensued; the general feeling was averse to the first article; the keys petitioned against that clause which affected the insular rights; and, at length, after severe debate, the bill was thrown out.

The duke being thus left even in a worse situation than before, renewed his attempt in 1791, when a case was presented to the privy-council, containing such strong allegations, that commissioners were appointed to visit the island, and make a thorough investigation, both as to the particulars in dispute, and also into the general state of the revenues, produce, and trade.

The result of this inquiry proved, that great part of the duke's complaint was well founded; that the sum of £70,000 given for the cession had been calculated on a revenue ill-managed and unfairly collected; consequently falling much short of what, under a better system, it might have produced; and that, in other respects, the property meant to have been reserved to the noble complainant was unnecessarily crippled.

In consequence of this report, a fresh bill was offered in 1805, on which the former contentions were renewed in both houses. Many members asserted, that the duke had received full compensation for the Isle of Man in its then state; and that if by the fostering care of the British government the revenue had been increased, it was no reason why the late possessor should call for farther remuneration. It was asserted, that the last Earl of Derby had farmed his own receipts to a merchant of Liverpool for £1000 per annum. And it was observed, that if such a

precedent was set up, with equal justice might any man, who had neglected his estate and sold it for a depreciated value, demand an additional compensation of the next possessor, when he should, by his industry or skill, have improved and restored the dilapidated property.

On the other hand, the friends of the duke maintained, that the loss sustained by him and his family, might, at a moderate computation, be estimated at £620,000; a sum so enormous, as to excite the ridicule of opposition. But at length, *being supported by ministry*, the affair was decided, the manorial rights clearly ascertained and established, and an additional sum of £3000 per annum out of the consolidated fund bestowed on the duke and his heirs for ever.

This success renewed the ancient grudge of the people against the Athol family. In the year 1798, the duke had accepted the post of governor of the island, an office, as it appears to me, much below his rank, and which, by constantly keeping alive the recollection of his former supremacy, ought to have been painful to his feelings: nevertheless, when he first assumed the government he was received with every sentiment of respect; the people were disposed to regard him as a fellow-sufferer with themselves, by the act of his ancestor, and hoped that his interest would still be exerted in behalf of his natural dependents. As such, on his arrival the natives, forgetting their usual apathy, flocked around him, took the horses from his carriage, and drew him to his house, amidst the loudest acclamations. But this popularity was of short duration: whilst the bill above-mentioned was depending, the people were *instructed* to believe, that its object went to the entire annihilation of their property, which it was represented the duke, in imitation of one of the Earls of Derby, meant to seize into his own hands. A prejudice once sown, especially by a popular leader, is difficult to eradicate, in proportion to the grossness of the soil in which it has taken

root; and the extreme ignorance of the mass contributed to establish a belief, which, to this moment, is not wholly done away; many of the landholders still asserting, that such a scheme was on foot, but that by some means, (which they neither understand, nor can explain,) it was defeated through the interference of certain individuals, who, from thence forward, have been regarded, without justice or reason, as the protectors of Manx independence; whilst the duke has invariably to encounter either the strongest marks of aversion, or at best a silent and contemptuous neglect. His acts, many of them highly beneficial to the community, are viewed with suspicion, and to the utmost of their power the legislature set themselves to negative and defeat all his propositions. Most people wonder that, so circumstanced, his grace does not resign an office in which he is so ill understood, and from whence he can derive neither honour nor profit: but perhaps the maintenance of his private rights are bound up to a certain extent in the exercise of his power as a governor; and in addition to that consideration, he has extensive influence in the appointment of officers in the different departments, which are usually filled up through his patronage, by persons connected with, or dependent on, his family, generally to the exclusion of the natives, whose jealousy is very properly excited by this preference shown to foreigners, who, on the other hand, feeling their obligation to the duke, are strenuous supporters of his power, and serve to compose a little court, and maintain a faint appearance of state during his short visits to the island.

*Tour round the Island, commencing at Douglas—Description of that Town and Neighbourhood.*

**BEFORE** I enter on general subjects connected with the present state of the island, I think it may form a very proper ground-work to draw a short sketch of the country itself. The scenery of the Isle of Man, except on the north side, where it is better wooded, has no great beauties: there is nothing to elevate or astonish, and not much to admire: the mountains are of too tame a character, and too frequently covered with fog, which, as a native poet says,

“Sit like a night-mare squat on Mona’s breast,”

to give pleasure, except to an imagination strongly tinted with Ossianic scenery; such may here find all the varieties of tint and form that enraptured the mountain bard, but they will still languish for the bolder features of his scenery. The highest elevation rises so gradually, that its effect is lost to the eye; there is hardly a bold or abrupt precipice throughout the whole, except in the rocky scenery round the coast, which can only be surveyed from the sea; the interior is cast in the same mould with its inhabitants, and a sort of quiet mediocrity characterises the whole. The country is intersected by streams, which, though scarcely more than rivulets, serve to diversify the scene; and the water is every where pure and excellent, totally free from the brackish taste usually prevailing in the vicinity of the sea, and, as has been found on experiment, admirably adapted to the use of the manufacturer as well as for domestic purposes.

The course usually pursued by travellers is to make a

tour round the coast, on which all the towns and villages are seated, the interior being chiefly divided into small farms, or abandoned to the undisturbed dominion of heath and gorse. The high roads are tolerably level, and capable, with a little more attention, of being made excellent. The town of Douglas, from various causes, has a pre-eminence over all the others, both in trade and population, though it is not the seat of government; but as it is the point at which nearly all visitors first arrive, I shall begin my description in that quarter.

The approach to this place by sea presents a most imposing aspect. On turning either of the heads that form the semicircle of the bay, which is of considerable extent, the eye takes in at once a variety of objects calculated to raise fair hopes of the interior. In the centre stands the free stone palace of the Duke of Athol, called Mona Castle, magnificent from its size, if not from its architectural beauties. The hill behind this mansion is planted and cultivated, so as to draw forth and embellish all its natural advantages, though the space devoted to this purpose, not exceeding five or six acres, bears no proportion to the size of the dwelling. At a short distance is a neat and elegant villa belonging to Colonel Stewart; and in addition to these several modern houses, at different elevations, overhang the bay, and give an air of modest opulence and comfort to the whole. In a recess at the south side rises the town with a handsome pier, and a light-house, of classical elegance, presenting a new proof of the capriciousness of taste in the human mind, these two being planned and erected by the same artist, who built the chaotic mass above-mentioned for the Duke of Athol. The whole bay is two miles across, and is sheltered from all winds except the north-east; both its points are rocky and dangerous, and in the middle is a bed of rocks called "Connister," on which, in the stormy season, many vessels find their destruction.

It is unfortunate when the first glance at a place excites expectations, which every succeeding view must damp and dissipate. Those who arrive at Douglas on a fine day can hardly fail to find the pier covered with groupes of white-robed damsels, full of gaiety and spirit. They will cast their eyes with delight on the villas which surround or overhang the bay. If the time is evening, they may probably be greeted with the sound of military music from the parade; and the combination must naturally lead them to anticipate an entrance into a Mahometan paradise, peopled with hours. But this lovely vision will only last till they have ascended the stairs opposite to the custom-house; from that moment they must thread their way through a labyrinth of narrow dirty streets, and prepare to encounter the usual variations of dirt and neglect; for certainly nothing can be more inconvenient or disagreeable than the internal arrangement of this town, where the divisions form angles which would defy the skill of the best charioteer of ancient or modern times: no part is flagged, nor is it well lighted, except in the vicinity of the harbour. The whole forms a triangle, the longest side extending from the bridge to the pier; but as the buildings are now rising in every direction, this shape will soon be lost; nor is it indeed even now so clearly defined as it was a few years back. The pier is in length five hundred and twenty feet, its breadth forty: it is handsomely paved with free stone. At the distance of four hundred feet it suddenly expands fifty feet to the right: this part being raised forms a semicircle to which there is an ascent by a flight of steps. And in the centre of the area is the lighthouse, according to the opinion of nautical men, more to be celebrated for its beauty than utility; being situated considerably within Douglas Head, and so nearly on a level with the town, that its light is often confounded with that of the neighbouring houses.

The harbour is esteemed the best dry one in the Irish



channel, and admits vessels of considerable burthen, at high water, close to the quay. The customhouse is the best building in the town, and conveniently situated for business. It was erected during the prevalence of the contraband trade, by one of those persons who had realized a considerable property in that pursuit; but in the panic following the revestment of the island, he sold it much under its value to the Duke of Athol, by whom it has been devoted to its present use. Till very lately all the houses in Douglas were low and ill-constructed, crowded together without regard to convenience or uniformity; but latterly several new streets have been constructed in the suburbs, well situated for comfort and accommodation, in which the houses combine some degree of elegance in the exterior, with considerable attention to internal convenience.

The act of the legislature, taking away the protection from foreigners, has been more severely felt in Douglas than in any part of the island, this being the spot generally preferred by visitors of this description; and in consequence many houses are at this time uninhabited, and the shops have lost that animated appearance of business formerly visible in them: but yet as all the imports and most of the exports pass through this port, there is still a considerable trade carried on, and a degree of bustle perceptible on the quay, that keeps hope alive, and leads the inhabitants to look forward to the renewal of past prosperity from some other source. The shops afford a good assortment of articles of necessity and convenience; but it is the practice to mix various branches of trade in one receptacle, particularly linen-drapery, grocery, and hardwares, which is not favourable to the condition of the stock. One of the principal traders in the town of Douglas deals in the following incongruous list of commodities—mittinery, mercery, liquors, wines, grocery, linen-drapery, stationary, ironmongery, salt, shoes, tobacco, snuff, brushes, brooms, mops, perfumery, hats, hosiery, herrings, and coals.

The assembly-room is spacious, but neither elegant nor even neat; yet the balls are well attended, and the young people dance to their two fiddles with as much hilarity as if the apartment was illuminated by Grecian lamps, or adorned with velvet hangings. A theatre was erected a few years since; but the encouragement given being insufficient, to induce good performers to make even temporary visits, the building has been diverted to other purposes.

Amongst the most promising establishments are, a public library and reading room; institutions so necessary to the improvement of society, that they deserve in all places the highest support, and the most careful superintendence: but in this, as in many other instances, too much party spirit prevails, and in consequence the advance has not been equal to the commencement. The president, the committee, and the secretary, have been occupied with private differences, when they should have been debating only on the best means of promoting the good of the society, and therefore the collection of books is neither so large nor so well chosen as it might have been, considering the time which has elapsed since the formation, or the funds subscribed. There is now only one printing-press\* in the island, from whence a newspaper issues weekly; but it is the vehicle merely for advertisements. In Douglas is a small chapel dedicated to St. Matthew; but the place of worship most frequented is a new church, a little above the town, which is neatly finished, and where the pews let at a very high rate. The parish church, called Kirk Bradan, is at a distance of two miles. There are, besides these, a Methodist meeting house, a Presbyterian chapel, and also one for Catholics.

A Lancastrian school, and a house of reception for the poor, ought to be mentioned with praise. Both owe their

\* Since writing this, another has been established.

rise to voluntary subscriptions, to which these persons, whom the natives are too fond of distinguishing by the term *strangers*, have been much the largest contributors. Formerly, the poor of Douglas, as is still the case in all other parts of the island, were partly maintained by a collection, which is made every Sunday in the different churches after the morning service, when the wardens go round from pew to pew, and though none of the donations are large, yet it is very unusual for any one to refuse some trifle. In country places, where the persons claiming parochial relief are not numerous, these alms have been found tolerably adequate to their support; but in the towns, though the collections were much larger, yet they fell very far short of the wants to be supplied; and this deficiency it was the custom to make up by domiciliary visits of the paupers themselves, who usually on a Monday morning made a progress in a body from house to house, to the great annoyance of the inhabitants, who were literally besieged by a body of claimants not easily to be either satisfied or dispersed. The establishment of a public kitchen in Douglas has completely relieved the housekeepers of that town from this weekly visitation: to support this institution each family subscribes according to inclination or ability, and the whole is conducted under the vigilant and judicious superintendence of the high bailiff of the town, to whose exertions the plan, excellent as it is, first owed its rise. These poor persons who, from sickness or infirmity, are unable to attend at the regular meals are provided with food at home, the others take their shares at a common table, and some few reside in the poor-house altogether. The whole number receiving daily aid are about a hundred persons.

The Lancasterian school has also been an essential public benefit, and a very visible improvement has taken place in the children of the poor since its institution. Establishments of the same kind, but on a smaller scale, have been

set on foot in Ramsey and Castletown; from whence it may be hoped, that the blessings of education, which not many years since were unattainable even by the higher ranks in the island, will now be extended to the lowest. The last public buildings which I have to notice are the hot and cold salt water baths. These, which are not yet quite finished, will be of inestimable utility to valetudinarians, and no doubt tend to increase the resort of visitors from the opposite coasts during the bathing season.

The post office for the island is in Douglas, where all letters are brought from Whitehaven, and thence forwarded to the other towns. The packet sails from England, wind and weather permitting, every Monday night; and after a stay of three days is again due for the opposite coast.

The lodging-houses are very numerous in this town, but there are few inns, and only two of any pretensions; in these the accommodations are good, and the difference between their charges and those made at English hotels is so great, that it induces many persons to give a preference to Douglas, for a temporary visit during the summer, especially as the sands are well adapted for bathing, and proper machines in waiting. The markets are abundantly supplied; but for a scale of prices, &c. I shall reserve a page at the conclusion of the work.

The Duke of Athol's house or castle, as it is the first object which strikes the eye of the traveller, and the most considerable for magnitude in the island, must not be passed over with the slight notice already taken of it. It is an erection faced with free-stone, on a plan so extraordinary, that it has puzzled persons, much better skilled in architecture than I pretend to be, to decide what class it belongs to. The mansion is a perfect square. On a line with the back front extends a string of offices, forming one wing under a colonnade, and thereby giving an air of deformity to the whole. The principal front recedes a little in the centre, for no reason but to countenance the erection

of a modern balcony with a light iron railing, to contrast the Gothic columns running up in the other parts of the building. The windows are much too narrow, and the grand saloon, which is of magnificent dimensions, is completely spoiled by a row of small lights, like the windows of an attic story, passing over the cornice and principal sashes; besides all, the eye is offended by a line of battlements, above which rises a pointed and slated roof, giving a direct contradiction to the armed pretensions of the front; nor is this the worst error in judgment, for, amidst an assemblage of chimneys, roofs, cornices, and carved work, springs up a round Gothic tower, with long *sash windows* between the loop-holes, the only visible use of which strange excrescence is to sustain a flag-staff, whence the colours are occasionally displayed.

The domain around the mansion is on a scale of littleness exciting continual astonishment, since there could be no cause why the lord of the whole island should fix on a spot so circumscribed, that the dwelling appears completely crowded under the hill, or rather gives an idea of having slid down in some violent concussion of the earth.

The terraces, walks, and gardens, would hardly suffice to exercise the taste of a citizen, who had to plan out his parterre and paddock for a country-box at Islington; and the whole is so much elbowed and incommoded by neighbouring villas and cottages, that it can be compared to nothing more appropriate than the noble owner himself, descending from his elevated station as Lord of Man, and submitting to jostle and associate as *deputy* with those officers over whom he ought to have held sovereign sway. The cost of this building, with all its defects, is said to have been upwards of £50,000; a large sum to expend on a mere monument over departed greatness.

*Tour continued—Castletown—Derby Haven—The Calf—  
Peel Town and Castle—Ramsay—Lazey, and the Road  
returning to Douglas again.*

FROM Douglas to Castletown, which is the regular route, the distance is ten miles. The road lies past the seat of Major Taubman, called the Nunnery, from the ancient structure formerly occupying the same site; but of which not a vestige remains, except a gateway still supporting the old bell, but now forming an entrance to the stables. The gardens and grounds have some beautiful features. For many years the whole has been without a rival; and travellers, finding nothing else to admire, have lavished more praise than it deserves on this spot, which certainly has many advantages in point of situation; but the scenery is disfigured by the erection of small houses, a mill, a warehouse, and even by two bleachfields, evermore spread with linens of different shades, all which are directly in front of the mansion. The house is not more than a decent country seat, whose whitened walls are curiously finished by a cornice and bordering of deep red stone. Above the nunnery the road commands a view of a rich valley, in which stands Kirk Braddan; and over all rises the lofty mountain of South Barrule. On the left is the delightful little villa belonging to Major Tobyn, standing in the midst of a farm so neat and well cultivated, that the whole presents a scene of judicious and profitable improvement, combined with domestic comfort and beauty, which attracts continual admiration. Half way to Castletown, on the right, is Mount Murray, belonging to a nephew of the Duke of Athol; and from hence the mountain scenery runs up in a variety of barrenness, including Snawfel, Penny Pont, and North Barrule.

Kirk Santon, a small church, lies on the left; and about a mile from thence are several druidical vestiges, being stones elevated and placed in a circular form. Following the direct road, you arrive at Balla Llonay Bridge, usually called the Devil's Bridge, which is said to be the scene of his satanic majesty's frequent exploits; on which account it is with extreme reluctance the natives venture over it after dark.

Balla Salla is the largest and most populous village in the island. The river and scenery are particularly beautiful, and some remains of Rushen Abbey still adorn the banks of the stream. This retreat was founded by Olave, King of Man, in 1104; but the church, though begun at the same time, was not finished or consecrated till 1357, though it had in that long interval served as a burial place for several of the royal family. The monks were twelve in number, besides the abbot. They practised great austerities, wearing neither shoes nor linen, nor eating flesh. In 1192 the recluses removed to Douglas, but in four years they returned to the abbey. In 1316 this place was plundered by Richard de Mandeville, who carried off the treasure to Ireland; and it was finally suppressed with the monasteries in England, in the reign of Henry VIII. but whether by the Lord of Man or by the King of England, I have not been able to discover. The site and remains of the abbey are in the possession of Mr. Moore, whose father, when first deanster, built a handsome house on the spot, and converted some remains of the monastery into out-offices.

From Balla Salla to Castletown, a distance of only two miles, the road is greatly beautified by some flourishing thorn hedges, which are cultivated with great attention on the estate of George Quayle, Esq. These were, a very few years since, the only specimens of this ornamental fence in the island.

Although tradition has handed down no authentic

account of the antiquity of the four principal towns, yet there is reason to believe that Castletown, or, as it was originally called, Rushen, is the most ancient; and that it may have been nearly coeval with the castle, though the surrounding buildings, not being framed like that for duration, must have been many times renewed since the first formation of the town. All those now in existence appear to have been raised within the last century, except one, now the George Inn, but formerly the abode of the lieutenant, and of the lord himself when on the island.

The venerable castle demands particular attention; it was erected in 960 by Guttred, the second Danish prince in succession from King Orry. This building, which is remarkable for solidity, bears a strong resemblance, and was probably constructed on the same plan with the Castle of Elsinour, in Denmark. It is of a figure not easily described. A sort of stone glacis runs round the keep, and includes some other buildings now fallen to ruin. This glacis was added by Cardinal Wolsey, during the time that he was guardian to Edward, Earl of Derby. Within the walls are some convenient and partly modernised apartments, appropriated to the use of the lieutenant governor, and also a large court-room devoted to public use. On the walls are three confined buildings where the records are kept, and the business of the rolls-office is conducted. There are also two rooms sometimes granted as an indulgence to persons confined for debt; but the great mass of unfortunate persons of this description, have hitherto been crowded together in three apartments set apart for that use; whilst felons were confined in the interior of the keep, in chambers so ruinous, that it was a great impeachment of the humanity of the government to commit any one on mere suspicion to such dungeons. Within the last year, however, great alterations have been commenced in the internal part of the castle; all of which is undergoing a substantial repair, and rooms of different dimensions are



planned out, where the miseries of incarceration will be alleviated by some attention to the convenience and accommodation of the sufferers.

The streets of Castletown are regular and airy. In the centre is an open space or square, around which are several very excellent houses, and at one end a neat and well appointed chapel. The keys have a house appropriated to their use; but it is a mean building, unsuited to the station held by this branch of the legislature. The free school of this town is considered as a very beneficial institution: it owes its rise to Bishop Barrow, who founded it in order to secure a succession of students, who should be properly educated for the ministry. The qualification required in the master is, that he should be a clergyman, and have taken his degrees at one of the universities; and the endowment arises from a sum given by Charles, Earl of Derby, being the profits of a former vacancy of the bishopric. Dr. Barrow also obtained several contributions, with which he purchased part of the impropriations; and he gave two valuable estates of his own in the island, called Hango Hill and Balla Gilly, all which are applied to the maintenance of four students, who previously to their admission must give security either that they will enter on the ministry when their education is finished, or repay the money expended on them. After leaving the academy, the young students have a stipend per annum till they obtain promotion in the church.

Castletown being the residence of the lieutenant governor, and usually also of the southern deemster; and as all law proceedings are conducted there, it must be considered as the metropolis of the island; and though not so flourishing in its trade, or so gay from the influx of strangers, as its rival, Douglas, yet it affords, in the opinion of many, a much pleasanter retreat to persons unconnected with trade, or those who prefer a quiet social intercourse to a mixed society. The only public place of amusement

here, as in the other towns, is the assembly room; but there is the usual routine of card playing, tea drinking, and morning visits. The gentlemen have a reading room; and, of late, a literary society has been set on foot, which it is to be hoped will before long give to the general association a higher tone. There are not many shops in Castletown; and the access by sea is so difficult, that trade to any extent can never be carried on there, as most of the supplies must necessarily be landed at Douglas.

The Isle of Man bank is established in this town, and is indeed the only house in the island which carries on the banking business unmixed with other concerns.

About a mile and a half across the sands is the isthmus which joins the peninsula, called Langness Point, to the shore, and by its bend on one side forms an excellent and secure creek, called Derby Haven, where are the remains of a round tower, built by the Earl of Derby in 1603. This was no doubt a commanding point, and much better calculated to repel an enemy than Castle Rushen, which, indeed, has always been nearly inaccessible by sea, owing to the dangerous and rocky bay before it. Near the fort at Derby Haven are the ruins of a church, by some supposed to have been a cathedral. It is now used as a place of interment for Catholics.

About two miles west of Castletown is Port le Moray; and a little beyond that Port Erin, a romantic secluded bay, offering an excellent harbour. On the beach is a small village composed of huts of fishermen, with here and there a little cottage villa of a superior description. Near this place are the Giant's Quoiting Stones, as they are called, being large masses of unhewn slate standing erect; and a little further is a barrow, called Fairy Hill, very generally believed to owe its rise to the labours of those visionary beings, but, in reality, thrown up in commemoration of Reginald, King of Man, who was slain in single combat by Ivar, in 1248.

From Port Erin it is usual to make the passage to the small island called the Calf, always an object of curiosity to visitors; the distance from which place is three miles. The circumference of the Calf is computed to be five miles, including an area of six hundred acres. A very small part of this surface is converted into arable land, but the whole forms a fine sheep-walk. It is the property of the Duke of Athol, and by him leased to a farmer of the name of Gurley, who has erected a convenient house in the centre of his domain, in which he resides, with his wife and two or three servants, who are the only inhabitants of this isolated spot.

It is very properly tithe-free, having the benefit neither of church nor minister. Except in the garden of the farmer, there is not a tree or shrub on the whole island. Rabbits abound every where, and are a great source of profit to the farmer in the spring of the year. The Calf is also the resort of immense numbers of sea-fowl, who form a most striking and picturesque scene from the water, sitting in innumerable tiers, one above another, on their nests in the clefts of the rocks, where the silence and security of their situation must efface every recollection of their vicinity to their enemy, man, and recal the idea of those first ages of the world when birds and beasts were allowed to multiply their numbers, and possess their domains unrivalled and undisturbed. The scenery is uncommonly bold and beautiful, especially when thus adorned by its white-breasted inhabitants.

This islet is said to have been, at different times, the retreat of two hermits. The first, in the reign of Elizabeth, imposed on himself a residence in this dreary solitude, as a penance, for having murdered his mistress in a fit of jealousy. The other was one Thomas Bushel, who made it his abode in the time of James I. in order to try the experiment how far a life of severe abstinence would promote longevity. What is called Bushel's house is now in

ruins ; it bears the outline of a small building, apparently consisting of two rooms, situated on the highest ground, and within a few yards of a perpendicular rock.

Whether this extraordinary ascetic died in his melancholy retreat, tradition gives us no certain information ; but there is a place called Bushel's Grave, on the top of the adjoining rock, from whence we are led to suppose that he did so.

This cemetery is most curiously constructed in the form of a cross, containing two cavities six feet long, three wide, and two deep. Immediately on the edge is a wall of stone and mortar, two feet high ; the whole is roofed and slated ; but except the before-mentioned application of this repository to the purpose of sepulture, no probable conjecture has been formed of the use or design for which it was constructed. The rock itself is only accessible on one side, and is called the Eye or Burrow : it adjoins the Calf at low water, but at high water there are forty feet of intermediate sea.

Besides this point, there are two lofty triangular rocks, springing abruptly from the water, the highest of which rises one hundred feet ; and in the narrower channel, between the Calf and the main land, is an islet named Kitterland, which affords herbage to a few sheep in summer.

Leaving Port Erin, the road to Peel lies through the pretty village of Kirk Arbory, so called from the number of trees formerly flourishing there, of which not a vestige now remains. From hence we have a near view of the mountain called South Barrule ; and on the opposite side are the lead-mines of Foxdale, the working of which has, of late years, been relinquished, though the belief of their intrinsic value is still maintained by many well-informed persons. On the left is a mountain-torrent, falling from a perpendicular rock of about thirty feet, which the inhabitants have agreed to honour with the title of a cascade. At a short distance is Kirk Patrick, a church erected in 1710,

by the exertions and benefactions of Bishop Wilson, who, besides giving £100 to better the endowment, presented the pulpit, reading-desks, communion-table, &c. &c.

Not far from hence is the most romantic and beautiful spot in the island, a valley called Glenmoi. It is a deep and rocky glen, well wooded, through which runs a rivulet, murmuring over its stony bed, and in one part forming a delightful fall of from thirty to forty feet. The northern bank is almost perpendicular, covered with luxuriant ivy, intermixed with holly; the south side exhibits a rich plantation of ash, chesnut, and hazel. As the valley winds considerably, all foreign objects are necessarily excluded, and the whole has an air of the most pleasing solitude.

Peel, which was originally called Holm Town, is twelve miles distant from Douglas, and eight from Castletown; it is more remarkable for its ancient than its present rank.

In the feudal times, this town must have derived consequence from its vicinity to the castle; and when the smuggling trade was at its height, Peel was a station of importance, but it is now little more than a narrow and dirty fishing town. The population is estimated at twelve hundred people. The bay abounds with excellent fish, and on this coast the herrings have, for many years, been taken in the greatest abundance. Peel Castle stands on a peninsula about one hundred yards west of the town; at low water it is joined to the main land by a stone wall, shelving to the top. Formerly, the approach was by a flight of steps, but time has rendered them nearly useless, and travellers now make their way to the ruins by clambering over the rocks.

Till the reversion of the island in the British government, this fortress was garrisoned by native troops in the pay of the lord, who usually gave them English officers; but, at the sale of the royalty, the armoury was cleared of the matchlocks and other ancient weapons, the garrison reduced, and the whole has been suffered to fall into a state

of incurable ruin. The remains, however, have yet an imposing appearance, the walls are still flanked by towers, and the outline is pretty well defined; it encloses an irregular polygon of two acres. The building was originally composed of a sort of red slate, winged and faced in many parts with red stone. Almost in the centre is a square pyramidal mound of earth, each of its sides facing one of the cardinal points. The admeasurement of this elevation is seventeen yards, and it is surrounded by a ditch five feet and a half broad, but of the use for which it was designed, no account is extant; it is conjectured either to have been an eminence whence a commander might harangue the troops, or with more probability, the burial-place of some great personage.

In this fortress, two eminent persons have been imprisoned at different times; the one Elenor, wife to Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, in the reign of Henry VI., the other, the great Earl of Warwick, who, on one of his reverses, was banished to the island, and detained in the custody of this garrison.

Within the castle walls are the remains of two cathedrals, one dedicated to St. Patrick, and believed to be the first Christian church erected here; the other, inscribed to St. Germain, and built about 1245. This last is described by several ancient authors, particularly Waldron, as having been richly ornamented, and abounding in monumental inscriptions; but, if it ever was so, the page of history has been more lasting than even memorials of stone and marble, for, at present, not a trace of these embellishments is discoverable to the most curious research. It is completely unroofed, and only occasionally used as a cemetery. Bishop Wilson was the last diocesan enthroned in this cathedral.

Underneath is the ecclesiastical prison, constructed with all the gloomy severity of Monkish times: it is a vault eighteen feet deep, of which the roof is formed by thirteen

pointed arches, supported upon short pilasters, only twelve inches above the ground. The bottom is extremely rough; and in one corner is a well, or spring, which must have made a deplorable addition to the natural humidity of the place, where neither light nor air is admitted, but through a small window, deep set in the wall at the east end.

Waldron also says, in his account of this place, that there were other cells under the two churches, adapted to the purpose of punishment, in some of which the wretched inmates could neither sit nor lie down, and that their seclusion in these dens of horror depended on the nature and enormity of their offences, and on the will of their judges. In these days of civilization, who can reflect without astonishment on the cruelty that could inflict, or the patience that could endure, such aggravated tortures both of body and mind. But though these severities have never been exercised since the reformation, yet one cannot hear without wonder, that the other part of the ecclesiastical prison was tenanted so lately as in the days of the excellent Bishop Wilson, who, in more than one instance, consigned offenders to that miserable abode for various offences against the church, particularly the non-payment of tithes, and even in some cases without a hearing. Indeed, the power of the clergy in the Isle of Man has always had an arbitrary character, and even to this day the sentence of the bishop, or vicars general, is decisive, nor does it admit of bail: there is no alternative between prompt submission or imprisonment.

Three miles from Peel is the celebrated Tynwald mount. Its appearance is pleasing from the neatness with which its singular form is preserved, and venerable from its antiquity, and the interesting purposes to which it is entirely dedicated. It is a circular barrow, of moderate height, formed into a pyramid of three circles, the lowest being about eighty yards in circumference, and the top not more than seven feet in diameter. On this, when the legislative

assembly is collected, a canopy and chair are placed for the lord, or his deputy; and the different officers, clergy, and keys, take their respective stations below him, whilst the surrounding area is filled with the people. Near the mount stands St. John's Chapel, from whence, after prayers and a sermon, the several persons forming the Tynwald court, move in procession to the mount, the ancient formulæ being still observed; though from the great change of circumstances which has taken place since the origin of the institution, the ceremony is so completely divested of the dignity of former days, that it excites little attention, and hardly now affords a holiday-gaze to the mob.

The first part of the road to Ramsay from St. John's lies through a deep and solitary glen, of two miles in length, containing in all that distance only one miserable cottage, and one stunted oak. It is a most hermit-like solitude, steep, lofty, barren, and desolate. In the bottom runs a narrow rivulet, above which, the road is cut on the side of the hill. Leaving this dingle, you approach the pleasant village of Kirk Michael, a place rendered interesting to the admirers of superior goodness, as having been the home-scene of Bishop Wilson's active benevolence for more than half a century. I could scarcely forgive the traveller who, on entering the precincts of this parish, did not pay his first visit to the modest stone that covers the earthly remains of so much excellence.

The church is in the midst of the village, of which the chancel was rebuilt after the death of his father, by Dr. Wilson, son to the bishop, who was born at Bishop's Court, and all his life took a warm interest in the affairs of the island, and, by his purse and influence, rendered many very essential services to his countrymen.

Near the church-yard is an upright stone, of great antiquity, on which are chiselled various devices of horses, riders, dogs, and stags; on the upper part is a warrior,



with his spear and shield; on the edge are some runic characters, which are thus variously translated by different antiquaries. Sir John Prestwich asserts, that the words form the following sentence :

“Walter, son of Thurulf, a knight, right valiant, Lord of Frithu, the Father, Jesus Christ.”

Whereas Mr. Beaufort, with equal confidence, reads the inscription thus :

“For the sins of Ivalsir, the son of Duval, this cross was erected by his mother Afridi.”

There are some other monumental reliqs, which make a better appearance in description than reality, being almost defaced by time.

In this parish is a pile of stones, called Cairn Vial, probably raised in commemoration of some contest, or of some eminent chief buried on the spot.

A mile from Kirk Michael is the palace (as it is called by courtesy) of the Bishops of Man. It is a moderate-sized building, well wooded, and standing in the midst of some excellent land, in an improved state of cultivation. The present diocesan is repairing and enlarging the house, and by the interest he takes in agricultural pursuits, will probably afford a beneficial example to the neighbourhood, and stimulate their exertions.

There are many barrows in this part of the country, which, in early ages, was frequently the scene of bloodshed and contention, most of the northern invaders having landed at Ramsay. Governor Challoper had several of these tumuli opened, but found only a few urns of clay, and in one, some bones, which had apparently passed the fire.

Two miles north-east of Kirk Michael is the village of Ballaugh, one of the most populous in the island, some manufactories for coarse hats being established there. In this parish is still a good deal of boggy land, intersected by the Currah drain. The farmers have a great advantage

in being near marl-pits, which, used as a manure of late years, has been employed to the manifest improvement of the lands. Two miles from Ballaugh is the church of Jurbby, almost at the point of land bearing the same name. The church-yard is on very high ground, and affords an extensive view over the channel to the opposite coast. A cross road leads from hence to Kirk Bride, situated five miles from Ramsay, and two from the Point of Ayr.

Between Kirk Bride and Ramsay is Kirk Andreas, a rectory and archdeaconry, of which the old church has within a few years been replaced by a new one. Near an ancient seat called Balla Hurry, is the encampment formed by the troops of Oliver Cromwell. The situation is well chosen, it is surrounded by a wide fossé, and has a bastion at each corner, the internal square being sufficiently sunk to secure the soldiers from the fire of the enemy.

The approach to the town of Ramsay lies over a stone bridge of three arches, which crosses the Sulby river. The town is small and irregular, but derives a slight degree of importance from being the seat of justice for the northern district. There is a pier which runs out a few hundred feet to sea, and is terminated by a light-house; the bay is spacious, and the anchorage good, but the harbour, from neglect, has become nearly useless, and will only afford shelter to vessels of very small burthen. The country about Ramsay, as well as the neighbourhood, is far superior to the town; the former being in a high state of cultivation, and chiefly inhabited by native families of considerable respectability, amongst whom a pleasant association is kept up: nor do they so decidedly exclude strangers from all participation in their hospitality, as is sometimes done in other parts of the island.

Provisions are considerably cheaper here than at the southern side, and it is also asserted that the land is much superior, and affords greater promise of advantage to the farmer; against which, however, I should fear the want of

an immediate and certain market must be more than a counterpoise. Many apple orchards flourish here in great luxuriance, and thorn or quickset hedges, on most estates, have superseded the stone wall so common in the south.

In proceeding from Ramsay to Maughold you leave the lofty mountain, North Barrule, on the right. Maughold head is a bold promontory, beneath which, under some moss-clad rocks, is a deep spring, much celebrated for its medicinal virtues. These waters were supposed to derive additional efficacy, if drank sitting in the chair of the saint; which still remains near the well.

This point, and the adjacent village, take their name from the venerable person who was there cast ashore, and who, as tradition informs us, made himself a dwelling on the spot where he landed; and where his exemplary piety, and the uncommon severity of his life, attracted such universal reverence, that his solitude was soon invaded by a number of votaries, who, desiring to shelter themselves beneath the protection of his sanctity, or to profit by his example, soon raised a town in his immediate neighbourhood, which became one of the most populous in the island. Of the truth of this legend no evidence remains, except the uncommon dimensions of the church, which greatly exceed those of any other place of worship in the country; and the circumstance of its standing in a space of five acres of consecrated ground, which certainly implies a larger population than that by which it is at present surrounded. Near this church-yard is a pillar of clay slate, on which the figures are so rudely executed, and withal so much defaced, that it offers a full license to fancy, to ascribe the original design to the most opposite subjects. Some say it is intended to depict the birth, passion, and crucifixion of our Saviour; others discern in it a clear and distinct configuration of the visit of St. Bridget to St. Maughold, when he invested her with the veil. For my own part, I can only wonder at the ingenuity that can

discern, in such an heterogeneous mass, a likeness to any thing in heaven or on earth; and I feel rather inclined to think, that the artist employed his chisel under a conscientious recollection of the second commandment.

Passing on towards Laxey, Snowfield rears its venerable head, and invites the traveller to a view which, for its extent, is unrivalled in Great Britain, of which empire, this mountain is said to be the exact centre; and a great part of which may be distinctly seen from the top of it. Of Ireland you behold the Arklow mountains, the high point of land on this side the bay of Carlingford, and the hills behind Strangford; of Wales, the towering Snowdon, and great Ormstead, besides a long line of mountains; of England, part of the coast of Cumberland and Lancashire; and of Scotland, all the high land between Dumfries and Port Patrick. Whilst the Isle of Man itself forms the home view, and is spread out like a map beneath your feet.

Laxey is a village of little trade, composed of about thirty houses, the retreat of fishermen; but the glen is deserving of notice, for the romantic beauty of its scenery. It is well planted with trees. About half-way up are some copper mines, from whence no great advantages have as yet been derived, though they are occasionally worked. A little way up the valley is a flax spinning-mill, belonging to Messrs. Moore's, of Douglas. Kirk Lonan, the parish church, is a mile from the village. At some distance on the road to Douglas are twelve stones placed in an oval form; just without the oval are two others, six feet high, one of which is cloven from top to bottom. The whole are erected on a mound of earth, elevated four or five feet; in the centre of which is an excavation seven feet long and three wide. The natives have connected several supernatural tales with this spot, but they give no rational account of its origin: most probably the whole is a remnant of Druidism.

Ken Droghead is a village rather more than two miles from Douglas, of which the parish church is dedicated to St. Onca, the mother of St. Patrick, though the name is usually corrupted to Conchan. This neighbourhood has been held up of late years as an example to the rest of the island, on account of the great and visible improvement effected here by different agriculturists, to which its vicinity to Douglas, and the facility of obtaining manure, have no doubt contributed.

Having now completed the circuit of the island, I have only to notice the inland parish of Maroun, which offers no extraordinary particulars to record. It is intersected by a road leading to St. John's. Nearly opposite to the parish church are the walls of a chapel, called St. Triani-an's, said to have been erected in consequence of a vow made by a shipwrecked mariner; and its present ruinous state is ascribed to the malice of the demon by whom this unfortunate had been persecuted, who being restrained from any further personal injury to the sufferer, amused his revenge by throwing off the roof of the new building.



*Agriculture—Its great Advance of late Years in the Isle of Man—Scale of Population at different Periods—State of Buildings—Advantages possessed by the Manx Farmer over those of neighbouring Countries—Roads—Manure—Notice of some particular Improvements effected by Individuals.*

**T**HE agriculture of a state, whether large or small, must ever form an interesting consideration, connected as it is with all that relates to domestic ease and independence. Its pursuits have a character different to almost all others, in this money making and money spending world. The returns of the farmer, ere they can be ensured, must be sought by a combination of industry, patience, and ingenuity; qualities tending to improve the character of the mind, whilst they are employed to embellish and enrich the surface of the land. If to the wisdom which enables him to discern the best means, he does not add coolness to pursue his end, he has little chance of ultimate success; and if unremitting care and practical economy are wanting, he will still find himself at a distance from the goal. These are very different characteristics to those which commerce demands, in whose service wealth and luxury too frequently become the reward of mere enterprise, whilst the unobtrusive and moderate trader is left to pine over disappointed hopes and fruitless efforts. The pursuits of the farmer have this essential advantage, that if the returns are slow they are in a moderate degree certain; and meanwhile, the health both of body and mind may be benefited by a profession, which, in a peculiar manner, protects its members from contamination of morals, and leads them to look up to that Providence, whence only they can derive their success. The farmer more than any one feels, or ought to

feel, his dependence on a superior power, awaits his visible operations in the kindly return of the seasons! he claims his bounty in the fruitful shower! and if he thinks at all, he must acknowledge, that though he may plough and sow, it is beyond his might to ensure any increase.

Again, I conceive that in this class the great virtue of benevolence is a more active principle than in those whose employments shut them up in a shop or at a desk! The wants of the labourer must ever be visible to his employer: it is his interest to encourage industry and suppress immorality: and it is seldom you see the bustling female who superintends the domestic concerns of the farm-house or yard, forget the sick wife of the cottager, or refuse those little aids which, though hardly missed from her large stores, are yet of infinite benefit to those whose means are limited to the measure of daily wants, without any provision of increased comforts for the hour of sickness.

Perhaps this view of peace and goodness, combined with industry, will in England be regarded as drawn from the old school, when farmers moved contentedly in their own sphere, and fulfilled the duties of it, with scrupulous integrity and satisfied humility; when they took their turn at the plough, whilst their wives and daughters exercised their sensibility in the care of the poultry and pigs, and their ingenuity at the spinning wheel; before the possessor of a hundred acres thought it requisite that his sons should be dashing sportsmen, or his daughters accomplished *young ladies*; and before every thing was given to speculation and theory, and nothing to practice and industry. If this primitive state of things is no longer held in deserved esteem in the wealthy and luxurious state of Great Britain, there is no reason why it may not be restored or preserved in the Isle of Man, where the science is in its infancy, where success may yet crown the persevering endeavours of industry, and both respect and honour attend its progress.

In pursuing this subject, I cannot follow a better or more scientific guide than John Christian Curwen, Esq. president of the Workington Agricultural Society, of which the Isle of Man formed a branch, from the year 1809 to 1813. This gentleman being much connected with the country, and having framed his annual reports, on the state of the agricultural interests, upon actual inspection, and great local knowledge, must have been a sufficient judge of the subject: and I trust this general acknowledgment of his authority will supersede the necessity of noticing the particular passages which I may give even in his own words.

Having commented on the great neglect of this useful science, which subsisted during the earlier times, and on the particular causes whence this inattention to the internal interests of the island originated, I shall only now endeavour to show the progress that has been made under a better system of government, in the last twenty years. At the time of the revestment, nearly all the farms were occupied by native landholders, who cultivated small portions of their estates, and submitted the residue to the undisturbed dominion of heath and gorse. The first advances, as might naturally be expected, took place in the neighbourhood of the four towns, with the exception of those domains occupied by Bishop Wilson, who first raised large supplies of corn, and made extensive plantations, now flourishing in their prime and beauty, a lasting memorial, amongst a thousand others, of his judicious skill and care. That his example to a certain extent did produce its proper effect, is proved by the consequences; because, from that era, those seasons of excessive scarcity, which, previous to and even during his life, so frequently recurred in the island, have never been felt with equal severity.

But for the present highly-improved state of the country, the Manx are certainly indebted to the spirited exertions, and superior practice taught them by those of their



fellow subjects, whom they are too fond of separating from themselves by the offensive designation of strangers. It is those strangers who have ascertained the grateful nature of the soil ! called forth and applied the various species of manure, which nature, with abundant liberality, had for ages offered in vain to native indolence or prejudice ; and by these means have transformed a sterile heath into luxuriant corn fields and verdant pasture.

To the same class of visitors may also be ascribed the revival of planting, which, if it proceeds a few years more as rapidly as it has done in the last twenty, will render the legend of the naked valleys, and unclothed hills of Man, as incredible to future ages, as we now consider the record which describes the Druids in their groves, or an army in ambush under shelter of a forest.

Early writers all concur in representing the soil as extremely unfertile, in which account Sagheverell, Rolt, and many later authors agree, without inquiry or examination : since, the present appearances evince, beyond dispute, that the defect lay not in the lands but in the cultivators. It is a truth, that small as the population was forty years back, they got most of their wheaten bread in a manufactured state, from Cumberland, from whence vessels, trading to Ireland, brought it out, and disposed of it at sea to the Manx boats, then constantly hovering about in pursuit of their established trade. Wheat was then hardly raised in the island, and even so late as 1798, when Feltham wrote his tour, he asserts that this grain could not be cultivated with advantage in the island, being from the nature of the soil, and other predisposing causes, liable to the smut in such a degree, as to discourage all attempts to introduce it. This error is now fairly corrected by the large crops raised since that time of the cleanest and best quality, as the returns from Liverpool market will prove. The generality of land, in a good situation, well cultivated, will

give of oats forty to fifty bushels per acre, of barley the same, and of wheat twenty-five to thirty.

*Formerly!*—and when on this subject I use that word, to prevent repetition I desire to be understood as meaning within twenty or thirty years. Formerly the instruments of husbandry were so few, that scarcely twenty carts were to be found in the whole island, and the farmers had no mode of carrying their corn but in kreils fixed on the horses' backs.

In the year 1842, Governor Greenhalgh made an ineffectual attempt to introduce the use of lime as a manure; and having built a kiln, it soon circulated as an article of news, that the deputy was actually engaged in a project to burn stones for the improvement of the land. The people hastened in crowds to witness the result of this wonderful process, and probably not without some strong doubts of the worthy governor's sanity: when, however, they beheld these masses perfectly reduced by the action of fire, they eagerly resolved to profit by an example, from whence they expected the most beneficial consequences must ensue. *Burth-pots*, as they were termed, were raised in all parts of the island, in which, without reference to quality, every kind of stone, flint, slate, or pebble, were indiscriminately subjected to the same process. For the ill success attending this judicious attempt they had an infallible reason to produce, founded on a belief that the governor had intelligence with the fairies, by whose agency his minerals were turned to a powder, whilst those of his contemporaries were only condensed to a greater degree of hardness.

Of this curious fact many evidences remain, and quantities of calcined stones are frequently found in different parts, which have either been left in heaps, or used to fill up drains.

A clear idea of the little profit derived by proprietors of very large tracts of land from their possessions, may be obtained from a list of the implements in possession of a

person who occupied at least four hundred acres of his own estate; for the cultivation of which he had, according to Mr. Curwen's information, one plough and one harrow. In abundant years, the estate produced bread-corn (that is, oats and barley,) for the family; in failing ones, not that: and the cattle depended on the gorse and furze, with which the land was covered, both for food and shelter. The same estate is now let to a thriving tenant, for a rent of £800 per annum.

Nor is the reign of prejudice and ignorance yet wholly at an end; they have still a strong hold in the minds of some of the natives, and at the time I write there is a tract of excellent land, within three miles of Douglas, held by the proprietor, and surrounded by farms in such a state of cultivation as must awaken emulation, if that sentiment was not completely smothered; yet the owner of this place is so bigoted to his ancient habits, that if out of three hundred acres he can raise enough to supply the instant wants of his family, and retain seed for the coming year, he thinks he has done all that foresight and industry can require. The females spin their own wool and flax for clothing; and at the end of the season they are well satisfied to behold the whole returns consumed, comforting themselves with the hope that there is more coming in. As to a possible failure of their returns, they never calculate on such an event; nor does the future provision for a large family disturb the equanimity of their minds, believing, with primitive simplicity, that sufficient to the day is both the good and evil thereof. The estate, by the laws of the land, must descend to the next heir; and for the rest of the progeny, during the lives of their parents, they will live at home in unthinking and inactive stupidity, and at their death must turn out, as a matter of course, with no provision but their own labour for support. For all which improvidence, as we should call it, the present proprietor has an unfailing apology and reason, viz. that his father

did so before him; that he himself has enjoyed the estate as his due; and his brothers, who were brought up with him, are now in extreme old age, spending the remains of their strength as daily labourers on the roads, or in the neighbouring farms.

But these instances of neglect are becoming every day less frequent, and Mr. Curwen ascribes the change to the advance of trade, the great report of settlers from other countries, and the excessive increase of luxury and taxation in Great Britain. The years of scarcity, also, have had here, as elsewhere, their beneficial effects; the great profits made by some farmers inducing a general spirit of speculation and improvement, which, in ordinary times, it would have taken many years to excite; whilst every tax imposed by the Parliament upon Great Britain operates as a bounty upon Manx agriculture. In all cases, the advance has been commensurate with these causes, as appears from the following comparative statement.

And first, as to the population. Mr. Curwen says, that at the commencement of the last century, the number of inhabitants on the island was under ten thousand; in 1755, he computes them at fifteen thousand; in 1777, only twelve years after the revestment, the numbers had increased to twenty thousand: they are now estimated thirty-five thousand. That this scale is absolutely correct, I am not quite assured. Bishop Wilson wrote a short history of the island some years before his death, which took place in 1755; and certainly no man had better means of ascertaining the real state of the country: he then calculated the population at twenty thousand.

In 1795, the Duke of Athol observes, in his case submitted to the privy council, that the king, by the revestment, has acquired an increase of thirty thousand subjects. It usually turns out that round numbers are inaccurate, but it is a fact, admitting no dispute, that a great and rapid increase has taken place of late years.

Another visible change appears in the buildings; every where the mud-walled cabin and thatched roof are giving place to erections of brick or stone with slated tops. In 1780, there were but four breweries in the island; at this time there are more than thirty, and many of them individually doing more business than the whole collectively at that time. So lately as 1807, three butchers supplied the town and neighbourhood of Douglas, and these only opened their stalls on the market-day: there is now a constant supply of meat exhibited by at least twelve competitors. Mealmen and hacksters were recently unknown in the towns, and many consequent inconveniences were felt by private families, who had to seek their corn in large quantities at the farmers, and thence to carry it through the whole process of grinding, and manufacturing for use.

But the most beneficial improvement has been made in the cultivation of garden produce for the market. Ten years back, a cart loaded with vegetables for sale was surrounded as a prodigy, and never seen except when some of the neighbouring gentlemen collected the refuse of their gardens, and sent it for general distribution; whereas now, many acres round the different towns, but particularly Douglas and Castletown, are cultivated for public use, and the markets are almost overstocked with vegetables, and the common sorts of fruit.

Another evidence to the progress of agriculture appears in the quantity of clover and grass seeds imported: at present the gross annual amount exceeds £1000 in value; twenty years past they did not reach to £20, and even within five years not to £500. In producing these various benefits, the institution of an agricultural society has been of essential service, for which measure the inhabitants are wholly indebted to Mr. Curwen, though their efforts are no longer conducted under his auspices; and it is to be feared, that they may languish in future for the want of some such spirited and experienced leader. In one of his

reports he mentions, with very natural exultation, that when he attended an annual meeting at St. John's, in 1810, the assemblage of gentlemen and farmers greatly exceeded his expectations, whilst the interest and spirit which marked the proceedings, evinced the impression that was made upon the public mind, and proved that the views of the society referred to objects connected equally with the profits of the landed proprietor, and the good of the public at large.

A very material advantage appertains to the Manx farmer, in his freedom from all poor's rates, as well as other taxes, the poor being wholly maintained by voluntary contribution. Land rent has certainly risen, particularly near the towns, to its full value; but should the present depreciation of farm produce continue, it must necessarily fall. The soil, though neither very luxuriant nor of great depth, yet makes generally a grateful return, if frequently renewed or stimulated by manure; and this operation is much facilitated by the abundance of wreck or sea weed\* thrown up on the sands, which has been found for a single crop to answer every purpose produced by more substantial manures; and the easiness with which lime is procured by water carriage round the coast is highly favourable to exertion. Mr. Curwen observed with pleasure and surprise, how much the cultivation of green crop had increased between the years 1809 and 1822, when he made his last visit.

Till lately, the importation of sheep was limited to one hundred annually from England; by the interference of Mr. Curwen the number has been increased to five hundred; and he confidently asserts, that the manufacture of woollens will ere long be the staple commodity of the

\* Sea weed does not answer so well in compost of soil or mould only, the decomposition being less rapid; but it is admirable with stable-dung, or even with straw, either of these promoting immediate fermentation, but in no case will it combine with lime.

island. Only one establishment for this purpose exists at present, which is conducted with skill and spirit, and I believe amply rewards the care and industry of its proprietor,\* who is also a very considerable planter, and in all his undertakings exhibits a patriotic, independent, and active mind, equally beneficial to the country, of which he is a native, and honourable to himself.

The quantities of grain cultivated in the last few years have been such, as to supersede the necessity of importing that article, notwithstanding the increased population. The rate of labour is as yet very moderate, being much under that established on the opposite counties of Cumberland and Lancashire. Potation crops are now well understood; cleaning the land is very strictly attended to by many farmers, and from its obvious good consequences will doubtless soon become the general practice. Improvement of live stock has, of late, been an object of emulation amongst the graziers, and there are several dairy farms, admirably managed, in various parts of the island.

The small breed of horses, for which the Manx, in common with the out isles, was once famous, is now almost extinct; but there is no deficiency of such as answer well for purposes of husbandry, and even those for the saddle are of late much improved. But although, in the particulars I have mentioned, much has been done, it is nevertheless indisputable that much yet remains to be effected, and the impartiality I have promised demands a fair statement on both sides. One of the greatest impediments to successful exertion in agricultural pursuits, is found in the state of the public roads. In the vicinity of Douglas, and also near to Castletown and Ramsay, these have been put into a much better state than they formerly were; but in many parts of the island they are in a most deplorable condition, and sadly increase both the labour and expence of

\* Mr. W. Kelly.

the farmer. The great error seems to consist in the manner repairs are attempted, which is simply by carting a few loads of stones wherever a deep hole or rut calls for such a supply, and leaving it to the action of carriages to crush or level them, instead of following the mode adopted in England of spreading and binding the solid material with a layer of earth or gravel. It is generally admitted, that the funds appropriated to the maintenance of the high roads are abundantly sufficient, if they were placed under due superintendence; but it generally happens, that the overseers are men little acquainted with the proper methods of performing their duty, and besides that, they have usually distinct occupations and private concerns, which fill up their whole time, and render it impossible they should perform their duty to the public so fully as they ought to do.

The herring fishery is another impediment to farming. At the time when an increase of hands are most wanted by the cultivator, he is left wholly to the aid he can derive from feminine assistance, by which alone he is to cut and carry in his harvest; whilst hundreds of stout young men are awaiting the arrival of the fish in listless idleness, or dissipating their expected gains in drunkenness; for such is the infatuation which the "herring fever" (as Mr. Curwen styles it) produces, that some weeks before the time it is expected to commence, and the whole period after it has begun, even on days when the weather or other causes prevent all possibility of fishing, they will on no account, not even for an hour, embark in any other pursuit. No one in their senses would recommend that the fishery should be relinquished altogether; on the contrary, it must be admitted, that the pursuit is a most essential benefit to the island, and causes an influx of money, which gives life to every occupation. But I am warranted, by the concurrence of the best informed persons, in saying that it is ill-conducted, and that one half the men, who are at present engaged in it, would, under proper regulations, take as much



fish as the whole number do at this time. The difference to the agriculturist of the additional hands thus obtained, at the season of harvest, is evident, as well as the increased profit to individuals, since the advance on the price of manual labour, at this season, holds out as fair a return as can be derived from the fishery, all expences and extravagances included.

But if the male part of the population are irretrievably devoted to gathering in the harvest by sea, it is but justice to say, that the females endeavour, by the utmost industry, to supply their place on shore. Nothing can exceed the activity and cheerfulness with which they undertake and effect labours apparently exceeding their physical strength, particularly in reaping, thrashing, &c. Another great fundamental inconvenience exists in the want of an established market for disposing of farm produce. At present the grower, having no certain sale for his crops, must lose much time in seeking customers, before he can raise money for his rent or current expences; and the prices, in these cases, are too often arbitrarily regulated by the measure of his wants, rather than by the value of his commodities. Some adopt the mode of exporting their produce to Liverpool, or Whitehaven, where the returns may be more certain and prompt; but these are subject to severe drawbacks, from the risk, at sea, and the heavy charges of freight and factors.

With the grassier, the case is still worse: fat cattle can never be shipped without incurring great danger of deterioration from a lengthened voyage; and in the island, the consumption is too small to encourage extensive speculations in this line, nor are the butchers willing to give even such prices as their returns would fully warrant; this has been so much a subject of complaint, that some farmers have even opened shops to retail their own meat, of whom only one has found the plan either practicable or advantageous. There is no doubt, however, but a little public spirit

and unanimity would overcome this impediment, if the principal farmers would unite here, as in other places, to establish a regular market for corn and cattle: buyers would soon arrive from the opposite coasts, and then the prices also would be fixed by general agreement.

I am not aware of any other material disadvantage which the farmer has to encounter in this island, that can in any degree counterpoise the peculiar benefits held out, except one, which is indeed of serious importance, but to which I cannot help thinking the wisdom of the Manx legislature will ere long apply a sufficient remedy. I speak of the laws as they are now constituted; first, with relation to persons not natives of the land; and next, as they regard the landlord and tenant. But on this subject I shall expatiate more at large under the proper division.\*

If those heroes who have depopulated nations are allowed still to occupy a distinguished place in the history of states and empires, surely; in a confined space like the Isle of Man, which is too small a theatre for magnificent actions, we may be allowed to celebrate those who have, to the extent of their power, exerted themselves to benefit and improve the little circle within their influence; and to my humble conception, there seems to be at least as much praise due to the conqueror of sterility as to the depopulator of nations. In the first class of these, coming under the former description, no one can deserve more honourable mention than the tenant of Ronaldsway, near Derby Haven, whose farm exhibits a scene of neatness and superior cultivation greatly to be admired. His vicinity to a lime-stone quarry, and the quantity of wrack deposited at his very door, are sources which, as he applies them, must produce wealth to him, and benefit to the community. Mr. Faulder is also unrivalled in the extent and excellence of his stock, and is the farmer of whom I spoke before, as

\* See Laws.

having successfully undertaken to retail his own meat. From his stores Castletown is abundantly supplied with animal food. The superiority of his mode of feeding is obvious, from the article he offers to the public; and, in fact, there is so much integrity and judgment in his proceedings, as well as a spirit and activity, that all are ready to allow his success, great as it is, is only commensurate with his exertions and deserts. There are few persons, however, who could at once embrace so many objects of speculation, as are encountered by the ardent spirit of this gentleman, who, besides supplying all the bodily wants of his neighbour from his dairy, his shambles, and his granary, has actually undertaken to cultivate the minds of the rising generation; and for this purpose he has established an academy, where, under the care of a tutor, he receives about twenty pupils, besides his own numerous progeny.

One of the best dairy farms is occupied by a gentleman of the name of Dunlop, who is remarked for the uncommon beauty of his stock, the extent of his crops, and the general air of success and abundance which follows his operations.

Mr. Curwen says of the north side of the island, that it offers much the greatest facilities for farming; the ground is in a state of nature; the means of enriching it are at hand; exertion, capital, and industry, are alone wanting to cover with luxuriant crops that surface which, at present, yields little or nothing. The truth of this estimate is about to be proved. Several spirited settlers have, of late, fixed their abode in that district, and amongst them the present bishop, who takes a lively interest in all agricultural concerns; but, as yet, the improvements are too new to be entered upon record, and it is only in the neighbourhood of Castletown and Douglas that we can form an estimate of the capabilities of the soil.

Hitherto I have spoken only of persons who rent the lands of others, and consequently have a present advan-

tage to draw from their exertions. But there is another class lately sprung up amongst the natives, with whom profit is a subordinate consideration; and where the chief attention is fixed on ornamental husbandry amongst these, a general taste for planting seems to prevail. The seat of Major Taubman is an example very likely to have excited this spirit. The trees there of an old growth are uncommonly fine, and the whole scene, as we have before observed, forms an agreeable contrast to the barren hills by which it is surrounded.

Several other places embellish the neighbourhood of Douglas, and give fair promise of future beauty, though none, with the exception of Mona Castle, can be classed above the rate of middling gentlemen's houses in England; yet they diversify the face of the country, and their small lawns and paddocks, spotted with clumps of new planted shrubs, will soon form a very pretty scenery. It has been the work of time to efface a prejudice generally entertained, that the vicinity to the sea would be completely unfavourable to trees; but the contrary has at length been decidedly proved, wherever the experiment has been fairly made. Perhaps no kind of improvers are more easily checked than planters; their efforts must always be disinterested, since the real benefit or comfort can only be reaped by posterity; and it should, therefore, be attended with some degree of certainty, to compensate for its distance. Nor is it fair always to ascribe failures to a radical defect either in the soil or situation. Trees, injudiciously managed, either from neglect or ignorance, might equally as well perish in the finest parks in Great Britain, as on the most sterile mountain in the Isle of Man; and it is most true, that an unsuccessful attempt in a place where all eyes have been fixed on the result, with an inward inclination to believe it would not answer, has an effect to repress similar endeavours, when, if the real source of the disappointment was taken into the account, it might rather stimulate than paralyze their hopes.

It is well known in the island, that an English gentleman, of considerable property, bought an extensive tract of mountain-land in the interior, not less than fifteen hundred acres; and when he cast his eyes over the wide-spread domain, his imagination pictured such a fairy vision of beauty and fertility, as entirely overcame the sobriety of his judgment. In his first speculations, he promised himself a mansion embowered in groves, fields, white with his ever-increasing flocks, roads, rivers, canals, and bridges. He calculated not merely on supplying the wants of a patri- thirty thousand inhabitants in food and clothing, but actually extended his philanthropic views to the starving nations of the arctic circle, who were to be rescued from the dominion of want and cold with the surplus of his abundant stores.

In less time than ordinary abilities, with ordinary means, would ask to reclaim a heath or a bog, and turn them into arable and pasture land, he undertook to have forests waving, and rivers flowing, through the whole compass of his property; and no sooner had his active mind overcome one difficulty in speculation, than he conjured up others to resist and to conquer. I forbear to dwell on his proposal for importing the musk oxen, on which he expatiated at an agricultural meeting, with all the warmth of his character, as replete with offered benefits to the community, and only attended by two or three trifling obstacles, the first of which was founded in the difficulty of importing these animals, and keeping them alive when imported; the other he thought still less consequential, being merely the possibility that prejudice *might* revolt from the taste of musk beef.

Projects so patriotic and extensive deserved a better fate, and I grieve to record their evaporation in complete disappointment. The trees, it is true, were planted with an unsparing hand, and the sheep, purchased from an overflowing purse, combining the choicest breeds, selected from all parts of Great Britain, and the greatest pains

were exerted to insure their safe arrival. So far all was hope and exultation; the natives assembled in crowds to view these precious treasures—to admire the plaids of the Highland shepherds, who came from the Cheviot Hills to guard their fleecy care; and they believed the owner of such wealth and such wonders must be almost as great a man as their far-famed Prince Mananan, with his fogs and his fairies.

Whilst the summer smiled, the sheep grazed on the fragrant heath, and the young plants took root unmolested; but, alas! no sooner did winter assert his reign, than all was want and dismay; for, till the snow actually bespread the ground, the necessity of providing for such an astonishing event had never entered the thoughts of this admirable projector. For a while the animals preserved their existence by browsing on the buds of the infant plantations, and the tops of the young firs; but these were soon destroyed, and with them all hope of future shade or shelter. Next the sheep fell victims to disease; and, lastly, the promises of philanthropy, with the visions of speculative profit, all sunk together in irretrievable ruin. Happily, however, this failure, instead of annihilating the hopes of our mountain-laird, has only turned them into another channel: he is now eagerly bent on the cultivation of flax, to which his whole domain is to be subjected; and he waits only till he has tried the effect of a new invention for dressing this article, before he will erect a factory, build a town, cover the mountain with artificers, and supply all Europe with linen cloths. There is so much vivacity of genius, such a grasp of benevolence, and such genuine public spirit, in all these designs, combined as they are by the gentleman in question, with repeated acts of solid use to this community, of which he is an acknowledged benefactor, that those who witness their failure must still respect the source whence they originate; and that charity must indeed be

cold, that does not wish him success, though the faith must be strong that can hope it.

Much expectation of beneficial example was excited in the friends of Man, when Colonel Mark Wilkes, a native of the island, and a gentleman well known in the higher walks of literature, returned from the East Indies with a fortune, earned by uncommon talents judiciously applied, and promised his countrymen to devote the residue of his days to the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. Unfortunately for the Manx, his talents were too well known and appreciated to admit of this seclusion; his services were again demanded in the government of St. Helena, whither he returned in the year 1812.

Colonel Wilkes is erecting a mansion in the Isle of Man, on an extensive scale, though I cannot help thinking, if it had been conducted under his own inspection, a better taste would have been displayed, especially as the farm-houses, offices, and cottages, built by himself upon his estate, are raised on plans so chaste, as to add much to the rural beauty of the scenery, and form a decided contrast to the cumbrous mass appointed for his own future habitation. In the short space of three years, that part of the country belonging to Colonel Wilkes has been converted from a barren waste, not worth half-a-crown an acre, to luxuriant arable and pasture land, great part of it letting at £2.

There are, doubtless, many other individuals in the island, who may justly claim distinction as improvers in this valuable science, but it would be tedious to general readers to dwell longer on the subject. To sum up the whole, I believe it is universally admitted, that a great, and for the time, an astonishing progress has been made; that the approaches of insular distress are nearly forced out; and that the few obstacles which remain must shortly give way to the awakened spirit of inquiry, industry, and emulation now prevailing in the country.

*Herring Fishery, and Trade in general.*

**T**HE herring trade being the staple commodity must be first noticed. It has hitherto been considered as an established fact in natural history, that the appearance of the herring on the different coasts of Europe in the summer season was in consequence of migration. Their progress from the cold regions of the north has been detailed with singular precision; they have been marshalled in large bodies, or sent out in detachments, as the fancy or information of Zoologists dictated; but late inquirers strongly question this progress from distant parts, and rather incline to the belief that the herring, like the mackerel, is in reality at no great distance during the winter months from those shores which it frequents in the season of spawning, inhabiting only the deep recesses of the ocean, or plunging itself in the soft mud at the bottom; but that at the vernal season it quits the deeper parts, and approaches the shallows in order to deposit its spawn in proper situations.

The reasons given by Dr. Block are chiefly these: that it is physically impossible this fish should traverse so many thousands of miles in so short a time; that in one or other part of Europe herrings may be found all through the year: on the coasts of Swedish Pomerania from January to March; in the Baltic sea, and many other places, from March to November; about Gothland, and also on the coast of France, from October to December. The fishermen of Scarborough scarcely ever throw a net in any season of the year without finding herrings among their fish.

But by whatever means, or from whatever cause, they are conducted by the hand of Providence to the different coasts on which they are periodically seen, no where can their arrival be welcomed with greater avidity than at the



Isle of Man, where a new spirit seems to inform the population as soon as the fishery commences. Between four and five hundred boats, usually of sixteen tons burthen each, and without decks, are employed in this service. These are manned by two seamen and four countrymen, who come from their inland habitations at this season, which commences about the end of July, and continues through the month of October. The nets are buoyed up by inflated bags of dog-skin. The produce of a boat is commonly divided into nine shares, one of which appertains to each fisherman, the owner of the boat takes two, and the proprietor of the nets one.

The fishing is very frequently interrupted: the least appearance of a change in the weather hurries them instantly to port. Indeed, the boats are by no means calculated for encountering a storm, or even a severe gale; and some deplorable accidents, which have happened in former seasons, are still remembered as warnings against encountering similar dangers. Nor are they solely restrained by fear from constant exertion, dissipation being quite as frequently a bar to their pursuits. A very successful night is almost sure to be followed by drunkenness, and consequent inability to attempt a repetition of their good fortune. They are also scrupulously careful not to leave the harbour on Saturday or Sunday evening. Tradition has preserved a story, that in former times they had a custom only to except Saturday from the pursuit of business, but that with the setting sun of the following evening it was the practice to put to sea. On one of these occasions a tremendous gale, accompanied by thunder and lightning, signals of divine vengeance, dispersed the boats, a great part of which were speedily buried in the waves, the remainder took shelter in the recess of an impending cliff, and before morning were overwhelmed by its fall. The warning has been accepted by the inhabitants of Man, who in this respect, at least, are careful not to intrude upon the Sabbath-day.

The view of this little fleet at sea on a calm day is highly beautiful. They always throw their nets in the night; and on their return to the harbour next morning, children and women are employed to convey the fish to the several receiving houses, where the operation of salting is immediately performed, as much of the excellence of the herring is thought to depend on the speedy performance of this process. The Dutch and the Scotch, (in imitation of them,) have adopted the practice of salting the fish on-board the vessels, and of throwing overboard at sunrise all that remain fresh; but in this island they proceed on the old plan. The fish are rubbed as soon as brought in, and left in heaps, till the following morning, when they are regularly packed in barrels, with a layer of salt between each row. Those designed for red herrings are differently treated; they are first piled up with layers of salt for two or three days, after which they are washed and hung up by the gills upon small rods, placed in extensive houses built for the purpose, where the rods are suspended in rows from the roof to within eight feet of the floor; underneath are kindled wood fires, which are kept constantly burning till the fish are sufficiently dry and smoked, after which they are barreled for exportation.

The number of herrings annually cured in the island is subject to considerable variation, but is calculated at an average of between eight and ten millions. The present price of fresh herrings varies from ten to twenty for a shilling; and for those that are cured, two guineas the barrel is the average price. A barrel contains about six hundred.

Formerly premiums were given to the owners of successful boats, and certain bounties upon all that were exported to foreign lands; but both are discontinued.

The chief exports from the island, besides herrings, are strong linens and sail-cloth, but in no large quantities, there being but one factory for making these articles, and that on a small scale. Considerable supplies of grain have

of late years been sent to Liverpool, with butter, eggs, fowls, bacon, and some other trifling matters. There is, as I observed before, a manufactory of woollens, but these are eagerly bought up for home consumption as fast as they can be finished. Some years back an attempt was made to establish a mill for cotton spinning; but after the erection of the works, the proprietors made a rather late discovery, that the exportation of the article to Great Britain was prohibited, and after some ineffectual endeavours to convert the works to other purposes, the whole were suffered to go to ruin: nor do I imagine that manufactories on a large scale can ever answer here under present circumstances. England usually allows a large drawback on manufactured goods, which in their raw state are subjected to heavy duties, in order to preserve her trade in foreign markets. The population of the Isle of Man, considering the fishery, is not at all too abundant for the existing occupations of the country; or if it were, the vicinity to the manufacturing counties of England, where labour is always rewarded with high wages, leaves no chance of competition for any insular establishments, except for the internal supply.

For some years past the inland trade has been much more flourishing than it now is. Since the non-protection set there are, particularly in Douglas, more shops than customers; but it is to be hoped this will revive again, or indeed very serious consequences may be apprehended. At all times the balance of trade is greatly against the island; but this has hitherto been counterpoised by the income brought in from other countries through the medium of persons settling here; and now that this source is closed up, the distress for want of a due circulation is very severely felt. Gold coin is hardly ever seen, silver is also very scarce, the copper being peculiar to the country is more stationary: fourteen-pence Manx makes one shilling British. To obviate this great want of a currency, the

merchants and shopkeepers issue cards of five shillings, two shillings and sixpence, and one shilling each, nominal value; these are in the form of promissory notes, payable on demand in British coin; but they are found to be attended with so many inconveniences, and such great risk to the public, that it is at present under contemplation of the legislature to make some regulations on this subject, and probably before long the British government will grant an issue of Manx coinage.

Some of the principal merchants in Douglas also circulate guinea notes; but the only regular bank established in the island is at Castletown, and the notes and cards of this house, from its known stability, obtain a natural and decided preference. The whole establishment is conducted on a scale of liberality very honourable to the proprietors and advantageous to the public, though it is often regretted that the gentlemen concerned in it have not established a branch at Douglas, where the great commerce is carried on for the whole island.

The imports are all kinds of manufactured goods, chiefly from Liverpool; coal from thence, and from the ports in Cumberland: wine from Oporto and Guernsey, from whence also they get geneva and brandy: rum must pass through an English or Scotch port. Since the year 1766, the contraband trade has been nearly annihilated; the little that is now done in that way is supposed to be by coasting vessels; but the custom-house department is so admirably conducted under the vigilant superintendence of the present collector, that it is generally believed the revenue is quite as well protected as at any of the ports of Great Britain.

The shops in the different towns have much the appearance of general storehouses, each one exhibiting an aggregate of articles not always calculated for combination; nor can I give the dealers in general, particularly the natives, the praise of civility, or a desire to accommodate.

Persons accustomed to the obliging manners of English tradesmen, are in general much disgusted with the air of inattention and disrespect so prevalent here, especially in those who have realized some property, or as it is usually termed, got a little above the world.

Some of the existing laws\* are considered as great obstacles to traffic with other countries, or even to an extended trade amongst themselves. On one hand, the stranger is exposed to imprisonment and sequestration of property for the smallest sum, whilst the native is protected from incarceration for the largest. The want of regular bankrupt laws also tends to cripple the efforts of the trader; and in many respects the fundamentals of commerce are neither understood nor acted upon, especially in what relates to credit and punctuality in money dealings: but all these defects, I think, are in a course of rapid improvement. Every day brings with it a visible enlargement of ideas, and as the disadvantages are felt they will be overcome.

The manufactures for internal consumption, besides that already mentioned for woollen cloths, are breweries, soap and candle manufactories, and tanneries; The brewer and malster are combined in one, and all these being free from duties of every kind, must necessarily leave an open field for great profits, especially as the prices of the articles manufactured are nearly as high as in England, where they are subject to such heavy charges, and in consequence one would expect that large fortunes would be speedily realized by those entering on these concerns; but I believe, especially of late years, that the numbers engaged are rather too many for the consumption, and the payments of the publican and others too irregular to admit of the full advantages to be expected.

There are few shops, and not many houses occupied by

\* See Laws.

the lower orders, where spirits are not sold either in large or small quantities. The smuggling trade introduced habits of intoxication, which still prevail to an extent the most lamentable; and nothing but a heavy duty, producing a consequent advance of price, will probably counteract this evil tendency.

Most of the small farmers and cottagers still spin their own wool and flax, and get them made into cloth by village weavers, there being generally one or two looms in every parish. These practices are favourable to economy, and encourage domestic industry, whilst they preserve the simplicity of the peasants.

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*The Revenue—Exports and Imports.*

THE revenue under the lords, proprietors, arose from a duty on exports and imports, a rental on all lands, amounting to £1400 Manx currency, from manorial rights and fines, a few fees, and certain prerogatives, by which the lords laid claim to all waifs and strays. In the time of the last Earl of Derby, the customs were estimated at £2500 per annum. The public expenditure at the same period was £700. In the course of the last century smuggling had increased so much, that the annual returns of trade were supposed to be at least £350,000, whilst the value of seizures was not more than £10,000, so that the profits to those engaged in it must have been enormous; and the Duke of Athol having a small duty on imports from this and other sources, procured for his share an annual surplus of nearly £6000 British. An abstract of

the clear revenue derived from the island by the lord, for ten years previous to the revestment, states the average yearly amount to be £7298.

The revenues given up to Great Britain were only those of the customs and herring dues, amounting to £8547, for which the sum of £70,000 was allowed. After the revestment, all the old duties were repealed, and the following new ones levied.

*To be imported from England only, and there entitled to the usual Drawback, to be landed at Douglas only, in the Isle of Man.*

	DUTY.		QUANTITY.
	s.	d.	
British spirits	1	0 per gal.	50,000 gal.
Rum . . . .	1	6 . . . .	30,000
Bohea Tea . .	1	0 per lb.	20,000 lb.
Green Tea . .	1	6 . . . .	5,000
Coffee . . . .	0	9 . . . .	5,000
Tobacco . . .	0	2 . . . .	120,000
Coals . . . .	0	3 per chaldron.	

*From Foreign Ports.*

Hemp	}	at 5 per cent. ad valorem.
Iron		
Deal Boards		
Timber		

French wine £4 per tun.

Any other wine £2 per tun.

Foreign corn, having been first imported into England, and had a bounty allowed, 10 per cent. ad valorem.

Any goods, wares, or merchandize, not specified in this Act, imported from England or Ireland, 2 per cent. ad valorem.

Flax	}	except only from Great Britain.	}	Duty free.
Flax seed				
Yarn				
Ashes				
Fish and flesh				
Corn				

Linen cloth of British or Irish fabric	}	Produce or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland in English vessels only.	}	Duty free.
Hemp				
Hemp seed				
Horses and cattle				
Utensils and implements of agriculture				
Bricks and tiles				
Trees, sea shells, and lime				
Soaper's waste				
Packthread and cordage				
Salt				
Boards				
Timber				
Hoops				

Colonial goods entitled to a bounty on importation into England.

English or colonial iron, in rods or bars, from Great Britain in British vessels.

Duty free, but subject to entry at the custom-house, under a penalty of 15 per cent. ad valorem.

All linens to be landed in the Isle of Man must be exported from Great Britain or Ireland.

Glass and woollen goods from Great Britain.

Tea, coffee, spirits, tobacco, glass, coals, silks, salt, and wine, must, on no pretence, be exported from the island.

It being found that, in consequence of the suppression of the contraband trade, the harbours had been neglected and become ruinous, the old duties were repealed, and the following levied :



*Harbour Dues.*

PER ANNUM.

	s.	d.	} Not a new duty, but a modification of the old one.
Herring boats, . . . . .	10	0	

Any ships belonging to his majesty's subjects in ballast, only putting into

the harbour . . . . . 0 1½ per ton.

The same with cargo . . . . . 0 2

The same, if repaired there, an additional sum . . . . . 0 1

Foreign ships in ballast . . . . . 0 2

Ditto with cargo, not breaking bulk 0 3

Ditto breaking bulk, additional duty 0 2

Ditto anchoring in any of the bays . 2 6

On all spirits and wines imported, per tun . . . . . 2 6

Tobacco, per cwt. . . . . 1 6

Tea, per cwt. . . . . 2 0

Coffee, per cwt. . . . . 1 0

Foreign goods not specified, 10 per cent. ad valorem.

British goods not specified, salt excepted, 5 per cent. ditto.

At this time the expenditure of the island exceeded the revenues, and in consequence the following additional duties were imposed in 1780.

Rum, 6d. per gallon, making the whole duty 2s.

Tobacco, 1d. per pound, ditto 2d.

Hemp, iron, deal, boards, and timber, from foreign parts, 5 per cent. ad valorem, making the whole 7½ per cent.

French wines, £4 per tun additional.

Other wine, £2 ditto, ditto.

The duties on tea and coffee were withdrawn, and the following substituted.

	s.	d.
Bohea Tea . . . . .	0	6 per lb.
Green Tea . . . . .	1	0
Coffee . . . . .	0	4

The allowance of British spirits being more than the demand, were reduced from fifty thousand gallons to forty thousand; and the allowance of rum increased from thirty thousand to forty thousand gallons, thirty thousand to be imported from England, and ten thousand from Scotland.

The importation of wine in any vessel of less value than seventy tons burthen was prohibited.

No goods, fresh fish excepted, were allowed to be exported from the Isle of Man without a warrant from the custom-house.

In 1790 the importation of British spirits was prohibited, but instead of them were allowed, ten thousand gallons of brandy, subject to a duty of 3s. per gallon; ten thousand ditto of geneva, ditto 3s. ditto.

To be shipped from England to Douglas only, in casks containing not less than one hundred gallons.

The annual allowance of tobacco having been reduced from one hundred and twenty thousand pounds weight to forty thousand, was increased to sixty thousand.

All wine was subjected to an additional duty of £8 per tun, making, with the former duty, £16 for French wines, and £12 for other wines, and to be landed at Douglas only.

Hops, entitled on exportation from England to a drawback of the whole duty, were made subject to a duty of 1½d. per lb.

Since this period little variation in the duties have been made. All goods of limited quantity must be imported under license. The collector of customs is obliged to give one month's notice of the expiration of licenses, and take in for fourteen days all petitions for new ones. If such of the petitioners as are natives require goods equal to the

quantity limited, they have the preference over foreigners ; if they require a greater quantity, the licenses are granted in rateable proportions. The counterfeiting a license subjects the offender to a fine of five hundred pounds ; and taking a fee for one, subjects the collector or officer to a penalty of fifty pounds.

From the sale of the island to the year 1792, the expenditure was fully equal to the revenue ; at that time commissioners were sent over to examine into the state of the country, as well as to ascertain whether certain allegations of the Duke of Athol were well or ill-founded. In the course of their inquiry, they discovered that the custom-house department was in a state of entire disorganization : their memorial on this subject states, that the system of management is ill-digested, incomplete, and unfit ; of which, amongst others, they adduce the following proofs. That persons, wholly ignorant of the duties and practices of their several departments, are appointed to stations of the first importance, without any previous instruction or preparation.

That even the obvious precaution of furnishing them with written or printed rules for their government had been neglected, nor was any source pointed out whence information could be derived, or any security given or required, for the due performance of the duties of the office, or the proper application of the trust reposed in them ; no inquiry was ever instituted as to character, so as to exclude those who had been formerly in the practice of the illicit trade, nor was there any check or control among the different officers, by which error or misconduct might be discovered or punished.

It was also, at that time, the practice to bestow various offices (not easily combined) on one person. The receiver-general, though an officer of the highest authority, had never been in the island from the time he took the oaths, when he remained a few days, leaving the whole execution

of the duties to a deputy, who was, as he acknowledged, completely without any instructions to define the objects, nature, and extent of his office. His practice was to receive the duties, and transmit them through the agency of a lawyer in London to his principal, and he did not actually know where this last resided, or how he might make application to him directly; nay, that he had even at different times required directions in his proceedings through the agent, but had received neither instructions nor answer.

Various other instances of neglect, equally striking with these, are pointed out, and strongly reprobated in the Report; and, as it appears, with the fullest effect, for very soon after the whole system was revised and altered, most of the existing officers displaced or otherways provided for, and the present establishment arranged, to the entire extirpation of the illicit trade in the island. The office of receiver-general was given to the collector of customs at Douglas, and the whole revenue of the island placed under his superintendence and control.

This extensive power, which he has now held many years, is universally allowed to be exercised with the strictest integrity as well as moderation; and the gentleman who holds it, though closely connected with the house of Athol, is pronounced, by the unanimous concurrence of all parties, to be eminently qualified by principle, knowledge, and prudence, for the station he occupies. No stronger proof of the excellence of the plans now adhered to can be adduced, than the improved state of the revenue. According to the report before quoted, the amount of custom dues in 1790 was £3006 8s. 11d. the expenditure same year £3272 2s. 2d.; whereas, in 1792, Mr. Pitt stated in the House of Commons, that the revenue of the island had risen to the gross sum of £12,000 per annum! at which time a farther compensation of one-fourth of this amount was granted to the Duke of Athol, and his heirs for ever.

The public services, for which internal taxes, continual

or occasional, are levied, are of four sorts: Building or repairing of churches, building of bridges, making and keeping high-roads in order, and the maintenance of the clergy. In respect to churches, each parish is obliged to bear its own burthen; not, however, to the extent of building, without a special act of Tynwald: but for repairs, the parishioners are convened by the churchwardens, and the money required levied upon the inhabitants in proportion to their rental.

The same mode is observed for building or repairing bridges. The high-road fund is derived from a tax upon every retailer of ale or spirits; a small rate upon lands and houses, leaving an option to pay in money or service; a tax upon dogs; and all fines incurred for public offences, or contempt of court: by these means a sum of about £1000 per annum is obtained for making and repairing the roads.

The clergy derive their income in part from the tithes, which are divided into three portions, one belonging to the lord, one to the bishop, and the other to the parochial minister. The incumbents have also a glebe, and a royal bounty of £100 per annum, to divide amongst the poorest, which was obtained by Bishop Barrow in the reign of Charles II. One-third of his share of the impropriations was purchased by the same worthy prelate from the lord proprietor, by collections made through his interference, which were settled to increase the revenues of the church, and for the establishment of a free-school at Eastletown.

The tithes are divided into great and small; these are sometimes taken in kind, but more frequently commuted, and hitherto upon very easy terms. There was formerly a tithe upon all fresh fish, upon ale brewed, and also a tithe of twopence annually upon every man engaged in any occupation, though he only exercised his calling three times in the year.

*The Laws—House of Keys—Civil Officers, Juries, &c.*

**T**HE laws of the Isle of Man are, at this time, a constant subject of insular dispute; by one party, they are represented as a mass of folly and corruption; by the other, as models of the most perfect jurisprudence. The truth, probably, in this, as in other speculative cases, lies in a medium between the two opinions.

From the time of the revestment, the legislation being protected by that act from all foreign interference, few corrections or alterations have taken place. The ruling powers, divided by internal and personal contention, have suffered the public good to lie dormant. Even in the boasted constitution of Great Britain, the watchful eye of legislative wisdom is ever open to discern and correct mistakes or encroachments: how, then, can it be supposed that a code, springing out of feudal customs and an arbitrary government, should require neither amelioration nor improvement in the long interval of sixty years? for, if nothing else demanded inquiry in all that time, still the persons employed in the exercise of power should have been subjected to some inquiry as to their proceedings; and if not the principle, at least the practice, of the legislature demanded investigation.

For a small population thinly scattered over the island, without manufactories or commerce, few laws were requisite, and the memory might be supposed fully competent to record all that was absolutely necessary.

Except the natives, none had any interest or concern in them. In such a community, whose time was wholly occupied in the provision of mere necessities, fraud, force, or avarice, had no latitude for disturbing the peace of

society; and the trifling differences which sprung up, were willingly referred to the deemster, and settled by the traditionary laws, or, perhaps, more frequently by his supreme will and pleasure, without reference to precedents of any sort.

So little form was used in those appeals, that, according to the statute-book, the deemster's presence alone, whether in the field or house, walking or riding, constituted a court; and the plaintiff meeting his opponent, when this officer was in view, might drag him *vi et armis* to an instant tribunal, and setting his foot upon his enemy's, there hold him till the cause of quarrel was decided. In such a proceeding, depending more on strength of body or lungs, than on questions of right and wrong, there was certainly more brevity than dignity; but one thing seems to have been well established, and that was, the infallibility of the judgment, which could come to such post-haste decisions, and give them the respectable name of laws.

The office of deemster is of much greater antiquity than the origin of the house of keys, and I conclude, was derived from that of the chief druid, who, in the earliest times, and in all countries, where this sect flourished, combined the rank of priest and magistrate. But the council of wise men is also of druidical institution, they were formerly called *taxi axi*, from the Celtic word *Teag asag*, which, according to Dr. Campbell, implies druidism, or elders and senators. In more modern times, this assembly has taken the name of the Keys, which last term Bishop Wilson ascribes to their knowledge of the jurisprudence of the country, and their unlocking the difficulties thereof at their pleasure.

The numbers of this council were not always twenty-four, they had been referred to as a legislative power when only twelve: in one of the old statutes I find it also recorded, *that their existence was wholly at the will of the lord, without whose consent none are to be.* This decision,

which is stated to have been from the deemsters, in answer to a question of Sir John Stanley, second lord of Man, was exceedingly ill received; and though it was recorded in the statute-book, and consequently left there for law, was yet virtually rescinded almost as soon as made. The original form of election is no where mentioned, but immediately after the above declaration, such was the ferment it excited, that it was thought prudent on the part of the deputy-governor Byron, to grant the people a share in the election. Accordingly, in 1422, he sent out his precept to the six sheadings, directing them severally to elect six men, out of which six he chose four to represent their respective districts, and these made up the twenty-four keys, by whose advice and concurrence at that time, several laws and regulations were made.

Why this mode of election has not been preserved, or how the people have lost a right so invaluable as that of choosing their own representatives, is not explained; custom has, however, completely abrogated this privilege, and the practice now established is, that when a vacancy happens, the remaining members elect two persons, one of whom receives the approbation of the governor, and thenceforward retains his seat for life, unless he vacates by voluntary resignation, accepting a place in council, or is expelled by the vote of the majority for some high crime or misdemeanor. What mode would be adopted, if the governor disapproved of both the nominations, is not settled, nor, I believe, has the case ever occurred. The keys cannot assemble without a summons from the governor, and his mandate dissolves the sitting without delay or demur. This body, when collected, with the lord proprietor, his deputy, and council, constitute a Tynwald court, whose concurrence is absolutely essential to every legislative act; but since the re-vesting of the island in the crown of Great Britain, before it can obtain the force of a law, every decree must be confirmed by his Majesty, and



ultimately proclaimed in the English and Manx languages before the people at the Tynwald hill.

In the separate meetings of the keys, the number of thirteen is required to form a house. They elect their own speaker, who holds his office for life ; and they decide by a majority. The qualifications of a member are to be of full age, that is, twenty-one years, and to possess landed property in the island. Non-residence, or even being a foreigner, are no impediments to election. Their privileges were of more value in the feudal times than at present, they being exempt from all duties and services to the lord, and free to kill game in any part of the country. To charge a key with misconduct in the performance of his duty, subjects the offender to a penalty, and loss of ears. This body have always possessed the confidence of the people, and though self-elected, seem never to have abused their power. The office is attended with much trouble, and no emolument; but it is every day rising in consideration, and though, formerly, little respect attended the individuals, at this time, a member of the keys in the Isle of Man is regarded by his compatriots as a representative of the Commons is in Great Britain. This increase of consequence takes date since the revestment, and is chiefly founded on the systematic opposition shown by this house to every act or proposition of the Duke of Athol, by which they soothe and augment the aversion of the people to that nobleman, and keep alive, often without a shadow of reason, the suspicion entertained of his motives and designs.

A late writer has observed, "that were the keys once corrupt, they must continue so for ever, the very nature of their constitution being such that it could never be purified:" but, with submission to this author, I think differently. Corruption in a small legislative body, like the one in question, would carry its remedy with it. A few acts of oppression, in the improved state of Manx population, would awaken them to an inquiry into their rights; and,

it is more than probable, would restore the original form of democratic election.

The chief civil officers are the governor, and lieutenant-governor, one of them being chancellor *ex officio*; the two deemsters, or judges, one presiding in the southern, the other in the northern division (these must necessarily be natives;) the water-bailiff, the high bailiffs, one in each town; the coroners, who are six in number, and preside separately over the six sheadings or districts, into which the island is divided, each having under him a deputy-coroner, or lookman.

The council consists of the following persons: the bishop, the receivers-general, the water-bailiff, attorney-general, clerk of the rolls, and the archdeacon.

All the lands of Man formerly belonged to the lord, and the occupiers could neither sell nor alienate without his consent; they were termed the lord's tenants, and were subject to the payment of a fine or rental, which was fixed by the setting quest from year to year. This system had been somewhat relaxed, and the holders came to be regarded as customary tenants, and some of the estates to descend from father to heir for a time, which had given an idea of individual property. But, in 1643, we find an attempt was made by James, Earl of Derby, to seize all the tenures into his own hands; and to effect this, he offered, on a quiet surrender, that he would make a grant to each individual of a lease for three lives, or twenty-one years. This proceeding gave rise to a warm contest, but the dispute remained unsettled till 1703, when it was finally arranged by the interference of Bishop Wilson, and the strenuous representations of the keys. At this time (in 1703,) commissioners were appointed, by whom the lord's dues were incontrovertibly fixed, and the inheritance of their property assured to the people, on the payment of the rents and fines so settled. In 1777, another act was passed by Lord Derby, confirming the first act of settlement, by

which, estates on the death of the owner were declared to be the right of the eldest son, or if no son, of the eldest daughter. A man cannot devise an estate of inheritance otherwise than in the direct line, but purchased property he may dispose of by will. If he dies intestate, the whole falls to his heirs at law, saving the widow's right, which is half the real and personal estate of her husband, whether he make a will or not. Of the entailed estate, the widow only enjoys her share for life, which afterwards reverts to the heir; but of personal property, she has power to devise one half by will amongst any of her children, even those of a former marriage, and in the life-time of her husband; and these children can claim their respective shares on the death of either parent, as soon as the said children attain the age of fourteen years.

The whole island was formerly divided into six hundred quarter lands; but at present the number is seven hundred and fifty-nine; all other estates appear to be allotments out of, or encroachments upon these. All wrecks belong to the lord, if not claimed within a year and a day. Mines also are his by his prerogative. Game belongs exclusively to the lord, and the laws were formerly very severe against encroachers, but these have now become nearly obsolete.

Besides the trial by jury in common law and criminal cases, there are various juries impannelled on other occasions. In cases of loss, trespass, or robbery, previous to any other proceedings, juries of inquiry must be summoned, who have power to examine all parties who may, by possibility, have knowledge of the facts to be inquired into; they may even tender the oath to the suspected person, and their refusal to accept this purgation is considered as presumptive proof of guilt. Upon the verdict of this first jury, subsequent process is founded.

Fodder juries are also a very curious institution. If any person gives notice to the coroner that a gentleman, farmer, or cottager, has a larger stock of cattle than his

apparent means can support, he is obliged to summon four men of the same parish, three of whom must be farmers, who are to make inspection what grass or fodder the said persons have provided for their cattle, as well in summer as in winter, and to make a true report in writing to the next court; and if it should appear that such provision is not sufficient for the cattle, an order is granted to the owner to sell off so much of the stock as exceeds the quantum of provender, and to deliver the price to the owner. The law even enjoins the said juries to take special care that the needful fodder is actually in present possession, and by no means to admit the evasive excuse of a dependence for supply upon others.

Marriages may be contracted by Banns or License: aliens cannot marry till they have been three months resident in the island. Marriage is, in fact, considered here as an act of partnership, giving no exclusive right to property. A man who marries an heiress, enjoys only one-half of her lands during his life: if she dies without children, and he continues unmarried, the same law invests the female with equal rights as to property of inheritance during her widowhood; but of his acquired possessions, she has power, even during his life, to devise one-half to any child of her own, and this will is in force immediately on her decease: No man or woman, being married, can sell or lease but by mutual consent. If a man marries a second wife, having issue by his first, the second takes only one-fourth part of his estate of inheritance; nor can any will or deed of gift invalidate these singular rights, except by the joint act of both parties; yet the husband incurs the same liability respecting his wife's debts as in England.

In the Isle of Man, children arrive at the age of majority when they have completed their fourteenth year, so far as relates to personal property, to which they then become entitled, and are also liable to debts thenceforward contracted by them; but must attain the age of twenty-one

before they can enter in possession of landed estates, or make any disposition by way of sale.

A marriage contracted between the parties, within three years of the birth of a child, renders such child legitimate, if the character of the female is otherwise unimpeached. A woman convicted of adultery loses her wife's or widow's right, and is entitled only to such alimony as the ecclesiastical court thinks proper to allow.

Executors may proceed in the ecclesiastical court for the immediate recovery of debts due to deceased persons; and their decree having once passed, and the order given out, subjects the defendant to instant imprisonment, till satisfaction is made by payment in full. On the other hand, no claim can be enforced against the effects of the dead under a year and a day; or if they had any money transactions out of the island, the law allows to the heirs or executors the extended term of three years, for the settlement of the whole concerns.

The mode formerly adopted for making proof of a demand for or against the estate of the defunct, was very curious: the person charging or denying such debt was obliged to visit the grave of the deceased, with two witnesses, and stretching himself at length on the same, with an open Bible on his breast, he there pronounced a solemn oath, which, in the absence of other proofs, was accepted as positive confirmation or denial of the matter in dispute: but this process was abolished by Bishop Barrow.

As to the penal laws,\* their defects being admitted, and the code at this time under the actual consideration of the legislature for the express purpose of amendment and elucidation, it would be useless to enlarge on their present state; and it is to be hoped, when the promised alterations do take place, a stricter police will be established, and the impunity now afforded to crimes, for want of definition in

\* For the new Penal Statutes, see Appendix, No. 7.

the existing power, will no longer remain a just subject of complaint.

There is one particular, which seems to have escaped observation, and yet calls imperiously for attention, which is, the manner of conducting coroner's inquests, in cases of sudden deaths, and the slovenly style in which they proceed when summoned.

To prove that this charge is not unfounded, I shall select two anecdotes from the number that have fallen under my observation. In one case, the captain of a Norwegian vessel, after receiving a considerable sum of money, was found dead without any previous illness! The cause assigned was intoxication, but attended by circumstances so suspicious as at any rate to demand a strict investigation; great part of his money had disappeared, and the body immediately after death turned entirely black, and exhibited many symptoms inducing a belief that poison had been administered. On this matter no inquiry took place; or if any, certainly not with the assistance of any medical man. The other affair was yet more extraordinary. A man, wholly unknown, being found in the river apparently drowned, an inquest was taken, and the verdict to this effect being given, he was consigned to the care of the undertaker, when, behold, on stripping the body, it appeared that his throat had been cut, and the neckcloth replaced, all which, with perfect sang-froid, the foreman of the jury declared, he had no doubt the deceased had done himself; so that there was no need to revise the former decision, on account of these new circumstances.

*Comments on the State of the Laws, with some Cases  
adduced in Proof of the Assertion that they require  
Amelioration.*

I AM aware, that the contents of this chapter will be so entirely local, that it will afford little to amuse, or interest, the general reader; but as the facts I mean to state have recently occurred, and the ill consequences attending the abuses of the laws, which I am about to point out, are felt or acknowledged by all, I think it my duty, as an impartial historian, to hold them up to public view, in the belief which I entertain, that this negligence of fundamental principles has, perhaps, originated in the want of a fair statement, or it may be in the very nature of the society, as it was constituted previous to the non-protection act.

I am very ready to admit, that whilst impunity from foreign claims existed, the frequent resort of unprincipled and extravagant persons demanded an extraordinary degree of coercion in the debtor and creditor laws of the island, to protect the natives from encroachment and injury; and that it was, under these circumstances, equal justice to grant immunities to one class, and hold up severe penalties against the other: but now that this protection is done away, and that both the trade and agriculture of the island loudly demand an increased population to revive their drooping vigour, it must be an obvious policy to grant equal privileges to the settler and the native. None are likely to visit this place in future but persons of moderate fortunes, and consequently of habits consonant to their property. If such are to be exposed to the harassing effects of the laws, as they now stand, a very short trial would suffice to make them seek a retreat elsewhere. To illustrate my assertion, I need only adduce a few instances,

which are recent and too well known in the island to be controverted.

And first, in matters of debtor and creditor, the Manx laws, with regard to a native, prohibit personal imprisonment, but with great justice subject the whole property of the debtor to the claims of his creditor. This exemption from personal suffering has certainly, in some cases, been diverted to purposes of fraud; the native has been known to make false assignments, or to turn his effects into cash; and then, under cover of the law, to set his creditors at defiance. But as no human institutions are perfect, the impossibility of entirely guarding against the ingenuity of knavery, can never be brought forward to abrogate a principle, which the enlarged views of society causes at this time to be adopted into the jurisprudence of nearly all trading countries; and it is probable, a modification of the bankrupt laws of England would be the best defence against the frauds complained of. But this it is not my concern to determine; all I have to do is to point out the errors that exist, and leave the legislature in its wisdom to correct them.

With regard to strangers, as our fellow subjects from Great Britain and Ireland are invidiously termed, the case is wholly different; actions on a simple affidavit of debt subjects the person to incarceration, and the effects to sequestration; and that, not merely to the value demanded, but the law, as it now stands, authorizes the constable to take possession of *all* the property of the person arrested, to hold it till the question of right is decided, and then to sell, not to the amount of the debt only, but the words of the statute are, "that he is to sell the whole effects, and first paying a year's rent if due, and the servants' wages for the same time, then to satisfy the creditor with all costs and charges, and *afterwards* to deliver the overplus to the right owner." No words can be requisite to point out the injustice of such a system, by which, on a disputed



account, a person might be thrown into prison, his trade ruined, his effects wasted, and his family starved, whilst the matter was under discussion; and which, according to law, cannot be decided under four months; and if, on the issue, the creditor only succeeds in establishing a small part of his demand, before the sufferer can be released, he must wait the sale of property, ruined, perhaps, by mismanagement, or, it is not unlikely, remain for life in prison, on a deficiency created by the measures adopted against him. Another strong feature appears in the principle on which bail is conducted. The law obliges the stranger who wishes to contest an unjust demand, to give *Mauz* bail; and, as if this was not throwing sufficient difficulty in the way, it also provides, that such bail becomes to all intents and purposes liable for so much of the debt as, on investigation, shall be found due to the claimant, from which liability he is not exonerated, as in England, by the surrender of the debtor to gaol.

But as facts speak more forcibly than arguments, I shall adduce some recent occurrences in illustration of my statement. In one case an English farmer having given offence to a native with whom he had been in habits of strict intimacy, he was arrested without any previous notice, or even the formality of demanding a settlement. The demand, on which the action was grounded, originated in a running account between the parties, and the real balance due was a mere trifle. The action, however, was taken out for the full sum that appeared on the books of the plaintiff; and as he was a man of extensive connexions, and the other a stranger, no one chose to offend the native by becoming bail, and consequently the farmer, who was also an inn-keeper, was hurried to prison, his farm-work stopped, his house shut up, and all his affairs thrown into confusion, as indeed was the design of the plaintiff, whose object was to harass, and, if possible, ruin his adversary; and although after six months' incarceration he was released upon bail,

and that finally a judgment was given, reducing the demand of his adversary more than two-thirds, yet was this tardy and insufficient act of justice a very poor recompense to a man, who returned, to find his farm unseeded, his stock and crops wasted, his trade fallen into other hands, and his whole affairs in a state of irretrievable ruin; though at the moment of his arrest all had been prosperous and easy. Can it be wondered at, that his spirits sunk under the affliction, and in a short time he fell a victim to the malice of his persecuter.

Another, and somewhat similar instance, occurred in the town of Douglas, only that in this case the misfortune resulted purely from the state of the laws, without premeditation or design. A petty brewer was arrested and imprisoned for a demand of £140, by the administrators of a deceased merchant, who founded their charge, as they themselves acknowledged, simply on a conjecture that a quantity of barley, of which no account was to be found in the books of the deceased, must have been sold by him to this brewer, because they were known to have dealings together, and because the said brewer was believed to be of a character likely to take advantage of any neglect or omission on the part of the merchant, in order to evade payment. On no better grounds than these, this action was maintained through four months, during which the man lay in prison, his wife and child were reduced to absolute want! his stock of beer entirely spoiled! and his trade, depending wholly on his personal exertions, completely annihilated. At the end of that time it turned out, that the only claim which could be proved against him was for £3. And the only justification attempted to be set up, in extenuation of proceedings so harsh and oppressive, was founded on the previous character of the sufferer; an apology which can never be admitted as sufficient, since it is obvious, that what was done in this case might just as well occur again to any other person, at the pleasure of a

vindictive creditor, or indeed of no creditor at all; and assuredly to sequester effects upon a doubtful point, to deprive a family of support, and subject property to arbitrary removal and injury, as well as to detain the body of the debtor, is utterly inconsistent with all the principles of justice!

But that such, notwithstanding, is the law of the land, I have the authority of one of the highest legal officers to assert. A question having been submitted to him, in the case of a person incarcerated for a debt of two hundred pounds, (the debtor having effects on the island in farm produce and stock to at least the value of £1200,) whether his family might subtract so much from the bulk of grain and other articles as would support them till the matter came to a decision? The answer to which was a positive and unqualified negative, with a declaration, that pending the question nothing must be touched, the whole being virtually under arrest, and subjected to the demand.

Unreasonable as these proceedings may appear, they are yet exceeded by the existing law, or perhaps I should speak more accurately if I was to say, the existing practice, between landlord and tenant: to which, however, both natives and strangers are equally liable. A landlord, immediately on payment of one year's rent, or within fourteen days after it becomes due, can arrest the property on the premises for the ensuing year. This is done by the coroner for that sheading, who takes a jury of four persons to value the effects; and as the law provides, that if such effects when sold do not realize the valuation, the said jury are compellable to pay for them at the prices affixed, it may therefore easily be imagined, they will take good care to make ample allowance for contingencies. If the property arrested is growing corn, or hay grass, the farmer is restrained even from cutting or carrying it: at the harvest all he has a right to do is to give notice to the proper officer, who is enjoined to use due diligence to protect the

grain. Few farmers, however, could be very easy under the exertion of this second hand *diligence*! Meantime an attempt to sell any part of the property, or in any way to alter the state of what is so arrested, (though it shall be proved to be with the intention of applying the proceeds to pay the rent,) subjects the tenant to imprisonment, from which he can only be released on giving bail to *double the amount* of the current rent. To dwell longer on this would be absurd; the bare statement is fully sufficient, borne out as it is by a recent case well known in the island, and which I have no doubt will awaken attention, and may probably procure redress.

Perhaps no maxim can be more true than that to comprehend an evil in its full extent, we must be in some way exposed to its operation or influence; for on no other ground can we account for the jealousy evinced by the Manx legislature in guarding the personal liberties and privileges of natives, and the complete indifference exhibited by that body on the same subject as referring to strangers. To such a pitch, indeed, has this coercive spirit been carried, that an insolvent act, though loudly called for in the island, and even recommended by the interference of the House of Commons of England, was withheld and opposed in all its stages; nor, I believe, would it ever have been granted, had not a very plain intimation been given, that if such a measure for the relief of the unfortunate did not originate with the insular government, the British Parliament would exert their own authority in the cause of humanity. In consequence of this hint, and its being warmly supported in the house of keys by Mr. Curwen, then member for Carlisle, and also one of the keys, who declared, if it failed there he would move it in his place in England, the act at last did pass, by which a prisoner, after an imprisonment of one year, might be released on the usual conditions of a complete surrender of effects; but the term of this act being limited to two years, is now

nearly expired. It is remarkable that, by the Manx laws, a debtor has an allowance of only 8s. per week from his creditor, on delivering up his whole effects, or I should rather say, after his property has been taken from him; which allowance is eventually to be added to the original debt. Whereas a person confined under a criminal charge, receives 1s. per diem during his imprisonment, and retains his effects; so that it should seem, in the eyes of this legislature, the crime of poverty is estimated as deserving much more severe punishment than is inflicted on breaches of the law; more especially as it is a rare thing to see the heaviest offences visited with any other penalty, except a temporary incarceration. Even in a case of murder, and that pretty well proved, the verdict returned being manslaughter, the criminal escaped with only three weeks confinement,\* whereas I have known a debtor languish in Castle Rushen eight years after he had relinquished the last remnant of his property.

\* I allude to the case of one Coxs, who was indicted for the murder of his wife; and on whose trial, before the late domestic Lord, it appeared, that he had perpetrated this crime with so much deliberation as to wait the heating of a poker, with which he struck the blows which occasioned her death; yet was the verdict such as I have recorded above.



*Comments on the actual State of Society in the Island—  
Characteristics of the Natives—The Clergy—Method-  
ists.*

HAVING now given as full an account of the history of the island as my materials will allow, and impartially pointed out the local disadvantages a stranger may have to encounter, I must descend from the character of an historian; and in order to form a more accurate "*chart de pays*," it will be needful to introduce both anecdote and individual character, as far as they may serve to illustrate the present state of society and manners, and enable my readers to judge how far I am correct in the assertion with which I set out, that the island offers a favourable retreat to persons of small fortune, and moderate habits.

In the minds of those who have thought of this place at all, a strong prejudice has hitherto existed against it, as a mere asylum where debtors might elude the claims of their creditors! That the protection hitherto granted by the laws of the island has, in many instances, invited the unprincipled and extravagant to a temporary residence, cannot be denied; but it is equally true, that in various cases it has afforded a retreat; where by the practice of economy those affairs have been retrieved, and debts paid, which had the individuals been subjected to imprisonment, with its attendant disadvantages and expenses, never would have been effected: but at present the question in all its bearings may be laid aside as of no farther importance.

The insular legislature, influenced by a requisition from the British government, have thrown open a door to the recovery of foreign debts; and the consequences of this act are, for the present, most seriously felt in the island,

where the sums brought in by strangers increased the circulation, and gave the necessary stimulus to commerce and agriculture; but these very circumstances concur to form a most favourable era for the introduction of those to whom, I am of opinion, the island presents advantages nowhere else to be found in the United Kingdom.

In Great Britain, by the inroads of luxury and the tremendous increase of taxation, existence is absolutely denied to that class which formerly constituted the middle rank; whereas in the Isle of Man, these are precisely the persons best calculated to harmonize with the manners and customs of its inhabitants, in whose character habitual economy forms a very leading trait. By the vast increase of trade and commerce in England, and the consequent influx of wealth, things have completely changed their names, whilst their natures have undergone no alteration. Prudence is now degraded into parsimony, and prodigality has assumed the honourable title of liberality; but as in this isolated spot it has frequently happened, that people have had to contemplate the result of this transposition of terms, divested of the glare attending its progress, as whilst the place afforded an asylum to the debtor, they too often found, that those who fled from the consequences of extravagance on one side the water, brought the same habits of expense and disorder to the other; and as such characters are usually actuated by a sovereign contempt for those little minds who limit their expenses within their means, the legitimate fruit of this combination of profusion and scorn was distrust and aversion. Hence it has become a rule that the stranger, who would live well with the natives, was compelled to adopt their customs, and above all things found it requisite to avoid every *appearance* of profusion. When it is considered how much we are the creatures of example, and how many foolish things are done for no better reason than because others do them, or to evade the suspicion of poverty, the value of this remarkable feature must be duly appreciated.

It has been alleged that the Manx people are illiberal and inhospitable; but I speak from experience and observation, when I assert them to be neither one nor the other. Those characteristics I have enumerated, as generally belonging to the refugees settling here, and the high airs usually assumed by them, certainly prevented any degrees of intimacy between two sets of people, whose arrangements were totally dissimilar. Nor would it have had any effect in producing unanimity, had the Manx hazarded their morals by an attempt at assimilation. But it does not follow that the same aversion to extend the circle of society, would operate to the exclusion of persons more consonant to themselves. I believe the very contrary will be the case, and that a short time will suffice to root out all prejudices on this subject. Meanwhile, in the Isle of Man, no sacrifice is exacted to ostentation. There is no scale of expence established, to which all must conform, who would preserve a respectability of appearance. The simple assertion, "I cannot afford it," is accepted as both reasonable and honourable; and those whose current expences are completely bounded by their income, occupy a more advantageous station in the eyes of their contemporaries, than those who, to make a great show, go not only to the extent of their means, but keep their credit also on the full stretch.

Another advantage, particularly to young housekeepers, is, the entire absence of luxuries; the markets offer few temptations, and the shops very little beyond articles of necessity. Here are neither public places nor gaming tables, even tavern meetings are little frequented, and the possibility of extravagance hardly exists. When to this is added the entire freedom from taxation, it must be evident, that a very narrow income, with tolerable management, may support a family in this island, to whom it would hardly give food in Great Britain.

Another particular most favourable to the maintenance of economy lies in the habits of the house-servants, who,



being usually trained up in Manx families, have no idea of that expensive scale of rights and privileges, which has crept in by combination and sufferance in other countries; but it is a necessary caution to those who would profit by the established customs, to warn them that they must not attempt to mix the native domestics with any others; and that they must make themselves acquainted with, and steadily enforce the established practices of the country. The servants have, in general, but a limited knowledge of their duties, but with a little instruction prove useful and active. The regular times of hiring is at May and November, for the ensuing six months. If the persons hired absent themselves from their service within the term of engagement, they are liable to imprisonment; if dismissed by the hirer, the full wages must be paid: these are moderate, and vary according to the abilities of the subject.

It is universally allowed, that no class have a greater influence in forming the character of society at large than the clergy, and I shall enter on this subject with great pleasure, as it relates to those of the Isle of Man, whom I consider as deserving the most honourable mention. To the indolence, carelessness, and even irreligion, too often exhibited in persons holding the office of ministers in England and Ireland, it is, I believe, universally admitted, much of the ordinary vices of the lower orders of people may be ascribed. The remark is trite, but not the less true, that a precept has little influence, when example takes a contrary direction. The graces of elocution, the charms of learning, the finest taste in the choice of discourses, can never counterbalance the mischiefs effected by a negligent or immoral pastor; his Sunday lectures can have no weight, whilst his weekly practice carries him through the haunts of vice and dissipation. Happily for this island, the inhabitants cannot, from experience, appreciate the veracity of this maxim amongst the whole order of Manx clergy, though some may be deficient in learning, and even in that

elevated strain of piety so necessary to give full efficacy to the doctrines they teach. Yet I will undertake, without fear of contradiction, to say, there are few, if any, striking instances of dereliction from their duties, and that, generally speaking, the established habits of the whole body are consonant to the best rules of orthodoxy.

When Bishop Wilson first settled in the Isle of Man, he found the clergy sunk in ignorance, and not remarkable for propriety of conduct; he speedily saw the necessity of striking at the root of an evil so extensive in its consequences, and he began by establishing a seminary under his own roof, where, with unwearied pains, he trained up future candidates for the ministry. The benefits of this excellent plan are not yet exhausted, the pupils of his pupils are still alive to propagate the blessing.

If the Manx clergy are a little deficient in the exterior polish of those attainments derivable from a college education, they are, at least, preserved from the contagion of vices too often attendant on a superior course of instruction, and retain a simplicity of character, and correctness of manners, more conducive to the general good of those they have to instruct, than greater learning would prove with less humility.

Much emulation in reading and speaking has, of late, prevailed amongst the younger candidates; and the improvement in these particulars has been very striking, even within the term of my own observation. Great part of this evident change in oratory may be ascribed to the influence of the present bishop, whose discourses, which he delivers with calm, but energetic solemnity, are particularly impressive. Indeed, it may be truly said, that his lordship's example, as well as his vigilant superintendence, are highly conducive to the preservation of religion in his diocese, as well as to the general amelioration of manners both in his clergy and people, his own character being embellished with all the graces derivable from the high polish of ele-

vated society, combined and corrected by the gentleness and moderation of genuine Christianity.

The service is performed in most country churches alternately in English and Manx; in the towns of Douglas and Castletown, the former language is adopted exclusively. The livings are none of them large, but they are pretty equally distributed; the highest does not exceed £350, nor the lowest fall beneath £80 per annum. The service of a curate is almost unknown, and residence very strictly enforced. I have witnessed, with pleasure, the respect universally shown to the clergyman and his family in several parishes, where such observations have come within my reach; and the peaceful and orderly arrangements of these village-pastors in their houses, has forcibly reminded me of Goldsmith's description of a similar character.

To particularize some cannot be done without injustice to others. But there is one minister in the island, in whose eulogy, I believe, all parties will concur with unqualified approbation. I respect the pious and unaffected humility of this gentleman's mind too much to mention his name. But, as "the friend of Man," a title universally accorded him, he is well known in his little circle, where his paternal care is actively employed to benefit and instruct; nor does he confine his pious endeavours to the narrow limits of his own parish—his writings and exhortations take a more extended range, and the good he is enabled to effect must return in blessings on himself.

The service of the church is attended by the laity with an appearance of devotion, very edifying to witness; nor is the rest of the Sabbath profaned by riots and drunkenness, as is too often the case in larger communities. A quiet walk, or a little chat from house to house amongst the decent villagers, seems to bound the Sunday diversions.

The Methodists are, in this island, an increasing sect. It appears, that from their first institution they have been favourably received here, as has ever been the case, when

they have assailed an ignorant or superstitious people. Wesley, who visited them in 1777, says of this place, "We have no such circuit either in England or Ireland; it is shut up from the world; there are no disputes of any kind. Governor, bishop,\* clergy, oppose not—they did for a season, but they grew better acquainted with us."

I confess I do not wholly subscribe to the prejudice entertained against this people. I firmly believe, as the candid and ingenuous Dr. Paley observes, "that there is to be found amongst them much sincere and availing, though not, always well-informed Christianity." That their devotion is too enthusiastic must be admitted; and where it goes the length of substituting faith for works, the doctrine is undoubtedly more than erroneous, it becomes highly dangerous. But these abstract points are not those which operate on the minds of the multitude, nor are they those which are generally objected to, or even considered by their opponents; and though some far-sighted persons may discern a danger to the church and state, from the prevalence of puritanism, I confess I cannot bring myself as yet to partake of their fears, for I am inclined to think, that the cry of the great mass, if duly analyzed, would be found to be as much excited by a high strain of devotion in general, as against the Methodists in particular. A very little extra attention to duty, or opposition to prevailing vices, has the effect to raise the hue-and-cry of hypocrisy. According to the present system, drunkenness, debauchery, and profane swearing, are all vices incident to human nature, and for which charity commands us to make every allowance, and continually to bear in mind the precepts of our Saviour against partial judgments. But one seldom sees the same forbearance exhibited in decrying a praying, psalm-singing rogue; his sanctity, even though

\* Dr. Hildesley was then diocesan.—I cannot help thinking Bishop Wilson would have resisted these innovators with more zeal.

no outward evidence impeaches it, is yet a subject of continual suspicion: in short, hypocrisy, whether real or imaginary, seems to include all the deadly sins; and to evade this charge, no hazard, not even that of our eternal happiness, is thought too much.

The evil consequences to the rising generation of this affected candour in estimating real vices, and this fearful avoidance of assuming virtue, must be obvious. Children, who continually hear all professions of piety ridiculed, and suspected, must naturally look on devotion as useless or affected; and whilst every mention of a future state, and every quotation from Scripture is avoided as Methodistical cant, I would fain know by what intuition they are to obtain the knowledge, which, I trust, we are not yet arrived at the pitch of denying, is necessary to salvation.

My object in this digression is by no means to advocate the cause of enthusiasm, I only seek to decry absolute irreligion. All that is done by the Methodists, and much more than they can effect, would be far better performed by the enlightened and rational clergy of the established church; if they would only exert themselves heartily and conscientiously in the cause; for I fully agree with the author I have before quoted, (Dr. Paley,) who says, "I have never yet attended a meeting of the Methodists, but I came away with the reflection, how different what I heard was from the sobriety, the good sense, and I may add, the strength and authority of our Lord's discourses:" and, therefore, though I would rather have the lower orders instructed in matters of religion, even by the Methodists, than remain completely in ignorance, yet in the Isle of Man, where no such neglect subsists, and where the clergy, from the head of the church to the youngest member of the class, are both adequate to their office, and zealous in performing the duties enjoined on them, I think interlopers are worse than useless.

*Further Observations on the Society—An Example presented to the Ladies for their Imitation, deduced wholly from Native Excellence—The Peasantry—Review of the State of Society at different Periods—Contrast between the Natives and Strangers—Anecdote of the Latter.*

**T**HE situation of the Isle of Man, slowly emerging from a state of depression, has been, for the last three centuries, peculiarly unfavourable to literature. The supply of bodily wants will always supersede the improvement of the mind. Hitherto the people have learnt only to live, they may now "live to learn." But though little has been done at home, the island has nevertheless afforded some excellent specimens of the effects of foreign culture on native talent; and when recalling the names of those who, owing their birth to this confined sphere, have contributed to adorn, instruct, or defend, the parent state, every Manxman will record with pride the distinguished names of Colonel Mark Wilkes, the historian of India; the learned lexicographer, Dr. Kelly; Captains Heywood and Kelly, of the royal navy, gentlemen not more distinguished for courage and enterprise, than for science in their profession: these are all luminaries of the present day, and doubtless there may be many more equally worthy of notice. I have heard of only one native poet, and his talents, though certainly above mediocrity, were suffered to evaporate in local satire, of which the humour is now lost; and in course the momentary corruscations attendant on his essays, have expired with the subjects whence they sprung.

On the whole, I believe it must be admitted, that Mona is not poetic ground; and it seems to me, that the character of the Manx, when it shall be completely developed,

will be found better adapted to solid attainments, than to those flights of fancy, which carry the enthusiast into the regions of fiction.

But even to the due cultivation of those talents derived from nature much is still wanting, and the foundation of scholastic learning is yet to be laid. The very heavy expence, as well as the inconvenience attendant on sending boys to England, restrains most families from adopting this plan, whilst those who do it are apt to shorten their course so much that few have the advantage of a regular education; and thus each young man, in comparing the attainments of his contemporaries with his own, finds them so nearly on a scale, that he has no incitement from emulation to advance nearer the goal.

Whenever the present class of pedagogues shall give place to only one or two schoolmasters of real learning, this great disadvantage will be overcome; and as I know no place that offers a fairer opening to persons in this line, I trust the attempt will yet be made: but to the success of such an undertaking moderation of terms are essential at the outset, the value of education not being sufficiently appreciated to command profuse returns, especially before the inhabitants have ascertained the real existence of those abilities, which they have been taught to doubt, from the extravagant and unfounded pretensions by which they have too often been duped.

The Manx ladies would have just cause of complaint if I should pass them over in silent neglect, yet I confess I enter their coterie with some fear, lest those who do not know them should accuse me of flattery, and those who do should charge me with severity.

In speaking of the female part of the community, I shall pass lightly over the occasional visitors, and confine my remarks almost wholly to the natives. Those who have come hither from other countries have seldom presented good specimens. Either extravagance or necessity are

badly calculated to form the character of woman in the best mould, and to one or other of these causes may be ascribed most of the emigrations which have hitherto taken place. Future writers will probably have better subjects to describe, but till now the most striking traits exhibited by these fair wanderers have been a sovereign contempt for those they came to live amongst, a prodigious flippancy, vast affectation of high breeding, and pretensions to a rank in their own country not always borne out by facts. With these ladies it was usual to pass their time in querulous regret at the fate which had condemned them to irradiate so low a sphere, and eager anticipations of their return to a more extended circle. The ill policy of showing this aversion to the retreat they had chosen must be plain to any comprehension! no one returns esteem for contempt, and nothing could be more natural than to join in the regret thus loudly expressed, that fortune had compelled them to take a station in society where they were neither welcome nor *invited* guests.

The generality of native ladies belong to that rank most favourable to feminine virtues, neither elevated by superior rank, talents, or attainments, nor sunk in vulgar and degrading ignorance. They are admirably calculated to perform their relative duties, and instances of dereliction are, in consequence, extremely rare. That they have not received the last polish, or acquired those arts which embellish the charms of virtue where she is, and outwardly supply her place where she is not, is most true; but neither do they exhibit those glaring vices, or that offensive disregard to propriety, which we *sometimes* see accompany extraordinary intellectual advantages.

The term *dasking* is not to be found in the Manx vocabulary, nor do the young ladies, or their mothers for them, lay violent hands on admiration, but rather wait with perfect quietness till it is spontaneously offered. I do not, indeed, consider the Isle of Man as the abode of Cupid



or the Graces ; in general, the marriages contracted by the natives (though they take place at rather an early age) are founded on prudential calculations. No man, however youthful, marries merely for love ; yet, as soon as any one is established in business or housekeeping, he naturally looks out for a wife as a necessary appendage to his domestic economy, and in his choice is influenced by parity of circumstances, by early associations, or some such motives, independent of the tender passion. In general, the same quietude of sentiments actuates both sides, yet are these marriages, in most instances, fortunate in their results ; a couple thus united live together on the best terms, they co-operate in their pursuits, habit soon gives them an undeviating conformity, and permits their lives to pass

“ A clear united stream.”

The ladies are, in general, admirable economists, and good mothers : they are rather fond of dress, but even this taste is so circumscribed, that it never leads them beyond the bounds of decency, whilst the vigilant superintendence of a narrow society restrains them from extravagance.

In the course of education pursued by the young ladies, all that is commonly called accomplishment is attained with such difficulty and expence, that the attempt is generally relinquished ; for, although in Douglas there are two female schools of tolerable celebrity, yet their plans are too superficial for essential good, and their efforts entirely crippled by the want of masters to assist in those branches of knowledge usually conducted by the other sex.

The style of visiting is like that which prevails in most country towns in England ; they meet to play cards, to practise a little extra-judicial inquiry into the proceedings of their neighbours, to relate their own domestic afflictions, to show their new clothes, and to kill time ; but for any intellectual attainments, for any “ burst of sentiment, or

flow of soul," it is as little to be found or expected here, as in any other circle of the same confined dimensions; And I own I have often observed, with smiling wonder, the avidity with which they individually run from house to house all the morning, to repeat the same news, practise the same courtesies, and make the same inquiries separately, which the identical set must hear, see, and answer over again, collectively, in the evening. The only scenes of active and public amusement hitherto established, to bring the young people together, are monthly balls, which are well attended. I wonder nothing like a book society has been attempted amongst the ladies; I am persuaded they have capacities for higher attainments than they have yet pursued, and I should rejoice to see their associations take a superior tone.

I would fain persuade my contemporaries to assume the graces and charms of virtue in her best dress and character; to employ their time in acts of benevolence; to guide the ignorant, stimulate the idle, and substitute active goodness for the negative praise of harmlessness. In no place that I am acquainted with, are there better opportunities for this advance in real worth; the female character here presents almost a spotless surface! there are no prevalent vices to combat! no fashionable crimes to eradicate! all that is required is to improve, embellish, and call forth latent good qualities, and give efficacy to dormant virtues, a purpose which I have little doubt a very few examples would suffice to effect; and I think I cannot better conclude this short essay than with the character of a Manx lady not long since deceased, who, with only the narrow means of cultivation this island affords, presented in her life, and left behind at her death, a complete exemplification of *all* that is valuable in woman. I borrow the words from the sermon preached at her funeral, and I might call on the whole circle of her acquaintance, to say if the picture exhibits one exaggerated feature.

“Her piety, though silent in its exercises, and secret in its springs, powerfully influenced her life and conversation, sweetened her temper, softened her manners, and elevated her views. From the exercises of public worship, from the retirement of her closet, and the perusal of the sacred volume, she returned to the active duties of her family with renewed energy :—‘ Looking well to the ways of her household, and training up her children in the way they should go, the heart of her husband safely trusted in her, and she did him good all the days of her life.’ All her duties were performed with singleness and sincerity ; she walked in her family and neighbourhood as the angel of consolation, offering a balm for every wound, and a remedy for every distress. Often have the sick and dying experienced relief from her charitable aid, and often has her well-timed assistance suspended pain, and arrested the progress of misery.

“In discharge of her relative duties she was peculiarly exemplary. Her conduct as a daughter was marked by the most cheerful obedience, and the most watchful attention. No language can convey an idea of the tenderness of her affection for her partner in life ;—she was his companion in health, his physician in sickness, ever anticipating his desires and preventing his wishes. Her attachment to her children was tender, rational, and constant : she taught them by her precepts, but still more by her example, to observe and adorn the doctrine of their Saviour in all things.

“The close of such a life might well be expected to be peace ; and such it was, solid, substantial, well-grounded peace and hope : for although it was the will of heaven to remove her in the prime of life, and though her sufferings in the last week of her existence were calculated to try her faith and patience to the uttermost, yet she regarded them as the appointment of unerring wisdom, and endured them in silent tranquillity and resignation, exerting herself only

to console those whom she was about to leave, and to point their hopes to a future meeting in bliss.”\*

I believe no Manx woman can peruse this eulogium without some degree of exultation, and I trust also, not without an earnest wish to follow such an admirable example.

The general description given of the Manx peasantry is, that they are sullen, unmoved by benefits, and to a degree beyond all bounds fond of litigation. I am not prepared wholly to deny these charges, but I think I may, without deviating from the strictest truth, offer something in the way of defence and explanation. Assuredly they are not a gracious people; they are slow in their apprehensions, and somewhat cold-hearted in manner, if not in reality, particularly towards strangers, of whom circumstances have engendered a degree of suspicion, which is now almost engrafted in their nature, and which only time, and an improved course of education, can eradicate. The charge of ingratitude also admits of considerable palliation. This sentiment, in uncultivated minds, must ever be in an exact ratio with *their sense* of the benefit conferred. Now it is most certain, that what an English peasant would consider as a state of actual starvation, is scarcely regarded by a Manxman as including any particular deprivation; from their birth they are habituated, without effort or design, to live very hardly. Herrings, potatoes, oatmeal, and these in very moderate quantities, are the general fare equally of the small native farmer and the labourer.

The latter resides contentedly in a cottage of mud, under a roof of straw, so low that a man of middling stature can hardly stand erect in any part of it. If to the common necessities above stated the good people add a

\* Extract from a funeral sermon preached on the death of Mrs. Stawell, by the Rev. Thomas Howard, vicar of Braddon.

stock of turf for the fire, and a cow fed in the lanes and hedges, they enjoy the utmost abundance of which they have any idea. A chaff bed for the whole family, a stool and a wooden table, constitute the furniture of the mansion; and here they vegetate in heaps, waiting the recurrence of the herring fishery for the renewal of plenty. When their stores fall somewhat short of their consumption, they take such calamities with patience as matters of course, which ~~must~~ happen, but for which the remedy will come of itself in due season; or may be sought in a case of extremity, by spending a day or two in labour at a neighbouring farm.

When therefore a stranger, viewing this scene with compassion, (because to him it would be a state of extreme misery,) satisfies his own feelings by gifts, which the objects of his pity never desired, and scarcely know how to use, ought he to wonder that he excites none of those sentiments of gratitude which the same benefits would, naturally produce in other places? should he be angry that the Manxman understands as little of this refined feeling as he did of his own wants?

On the other hand, there are traits of hospitality inherent in the character of these peasants which bespeak a natural generosity, and which it is remarkable are preserved in the greatest purity, where their exercise must be attended with the most considerable self-denial. No enter, however poor, will refuse to his neighbour or acquaintance a share of his herrings and potatoes, small as the portion may be that is provided for his own consumption; and though their miserable bed be crowded by a whole family, they still find a corner for a native traveller, who seeks the shelter of a lowly roof; and these good offices are extended with the most unaffected simplicity, and accepted more as a right than a favour.

The love of litigation is a charge which it is more difficult to meet with a due apology; yet even on this subject

something may be said. In the first place it is almost wholly confined to the lower orders. In the higher circles of the Manx, whether gentry or traders, there is as little disposition to vexatious or petty suits, as in the same classes in other countries, where the access to law is guarded by expence and difficulty; on the other hand, the peasant has been accustomed from infancy to consider the deemster as the guardian of his rights, and an infallible decider of all disagreements, to whom he might apply whenever he felt himself injured or aggrieved, and that, not entirely in the character of a judge greatly elevated above himself, who must be approached with awe, and who from want of experience could enter into none of the petty grievances brought to his cognizance; but, on the contrary, the Manxman feels that this officer has a close and local knowledge of the character, circumstances, and family history of every client in his little district: and he remembers too, that a very short time perhaps has elapsed since the deemster moved in the same sphere with himself. Each man also, partial to his own cause, and knowing the decisions are to be governed by circumstances as they can be made to appear, has a hope, by telling his own story, of prevailing against his adversary. At all events the expence incurred is trifling, and the disgrace of failure none at all.

This habit of referring the merest trifles to judicial authority, diffuses a knowledge of the laws, or rather of the practice, neither beneficial nor improving. Every native man, woman, and *child*, understands the legal terms, and can dilate upon the history of actions, tokens, charges, and appeals, with technical precision; and the pertinacity with which a common peasant will pursue a cause through all the different courts, is both ridiculous and tormenting. I heard an instance in point from very high authority, which I shall repeat as it was related to me.

A man had made a charge of five shillings for digging a

grave, the customary price being only two shillings and sixpence. The affair was contended in the lowest ecclesiastical court, and in course given against the plaintiff, who thence carried it to the bishop, and being still foiled, has had the obstinacy to appeal to the metropolitan court at York, where this ridiculous cause is still pending. But these contentions are generally amongs: themselves, and form but a trifling subject of annoyance to strangers, who, with very little temper and caution, may keep clear of these petty inconveniences, which will never wholly subside until the legislature shall impose a tax upon law proceedings, and thereby render them less accessible to the peasantry; or till the deemsters, being remunerated by government at a fixed and competent salary, in lieu of the fees now granted, shall find it for their own ease to discountenance litigation.

The only military force at present in the island are the volunteers, or local militia; there were formerly two fencible regiments of native troops in the pay of government, but these being reduced at different times, a regiment of veterans took their place, who were, however, recalled when the war broke out again. It is probable the present system will not continue long, but that either a permanent force will be raised within the island, or some regiment from Great Britain be stationed here, it being absolutely necessary to have some troops for the protection of the prisons, and also to guard the stores, and enforce the authority of the custom-house officers against smugglers. It is a curious fact, that during the long period of war, when it was universally allowed that a single privateer might have ravaged the island, or laid either of the towns in ashes before assistance or protection could be afforded from England, yet no care was taken to organize those means of defence which were easily within the reach of the inhabitants. It is true that at every commanding point, all round the coast, there were cannon; but these lay dis-

mounted and useless, though, at the same time, government was paying a salary to an ordnance-keeper for his *neglect*. But immediately on the conclusion of peace, an engineer being sent over, has ever since been actively employed in building batteries, arranging stores of ammunition, and mounting the cannon, as if it had been apprehended that, when all the rest of Europe was restored to tranquillity, the arms of the united potentates would be turned against the Isle of Man alone; at any rate, if this idea is considered as futile, I must leave it to clearer politicians than myself to say, why these measures of precaution were not taken before? or why they have been taken now?

If what I have said has failed to convey a general idea of the society and manners of the people, I know not how I shall make my account more accurate. In fact, except a few national traits, which remain permanently fixed, the features of the whole people have ever been liable to great variation, and are constantly influenced by the different classes who come amongst them: of some of the most striking of these changes, it may be amusing, before we conclude, to take a slight review.

In the earliest times we imagine the court of the kings to have been adorned by knights and damsels, whom fancy is allowed to paint in all the splendour of chivalry and romance. Next we find a race of peasants in mud-walled cottages, decked out on holidays, and at fairs, in their *best blankets*, and leaving us in some doubt what kind of drapery was substituted on less important occasions; sunk in extreme ignorance, dozing amidst foggy mountains, and dreaming of an intercourse with fairies and mermaids, or trembling at the power of witches and demons.

The next great revolution converted these half stupified beings into a community having a mixed character between traders and robbers, who united the meanest traits of both professions, living by the exercise of fraud, and a sort of bastard courage called forth only by the prospect of gain,



and wholly inapplicable to any better purpose. Hitherto they had formed little connexion with foreigners, or had been little visited by them; all their varieties had sprung from internal circumstances; but at length a new scene opened, since which the changes have been more rapid, and of shorter continuance.

Luxury, as it advanced in Great Britain, continually drove out these sons and daughters of dissipation, who had sacrificed too largely at her altars, to expiate their vices or their follies in other climes; and when the revolutionary war broke out, the continent being closed against such incursions, the Isle of Man became the sole retreat left open to them. At first, the animation and spirit which accompanied persons of this cast threw a charm over their derelictions, and the natives, dazzled by the polished manners and superier acquisitions of their visitors, opened their hearts and their houses to them; but this cordiality was short lived. Gold had, at this time, become one of the household gods of the Manx, and it was not possible to preserve this deity inviolate from the attacks of the strangers: hence arose suspicion on one side, and contempt on the other; so that, at last, both parties draw off into separate associations, and all chance of reconciliation was at an end. It is now about twelve years since this feud was at its height, and as that was the period of my arrival in the island, I was both astonished and alarmed at the enmity then existing between them. The weekly paper was the instrument of war, and the anger of both sides was vented in repartee and innuendo, in which attacks, it must be owned, the advantage lay with the strangers.

The Manx continually threatened to withdraw the protection afforded to these interlopers, who in their turn warned them, that the island would be ruined by such a measure: they insisted that all the prosperity of the country originated with them! that it was supported by their money, and might be civilized by their example. In fact,

to listen only to one side, any one would have supposed these were a class of missionaries, who had made a pilgrimage with the disinterested view of diffusing light and wealth; whilst the Manx as sturdily denied the benefit, and expressed their wish to be left in mediocrity and ignorance, rather than be annoyed by the airs of superiority assumed over them. It was in the height of this contest that a new clan arrived to divert and occupy the public attention. These were a tribe of duellists, or what Addison would have called "*Mohawks*," chiefly drawn from the green shores of Erin; and no sooner had they landed than peace spread her wings, and for many months was heard of no more. I am not exaggerating when I assert, that every evening closed upon a quarrel, and every morning dawned upon a challenge! explanations! apologies! points of honour! and effusions of valour formed the sole subjects of discourse! No meeting, however peaceably arranged between the most intimate friends, could ever break up without a deadly feud, which nothing but lead and gunpowder could allay. For a length of time the whole island (but Douglas in particular,) was in a state of ferment, till the meetings grew so frequent that even terror was worn out; and it began to be observed, that by some lucky chance the heroes still gathered bloodless laurels; so that at last the heroines left off to faint or to fear, and it became necessary to make somebody weep, that every body might not laugh. At length two gentlemen did meet in real earnest, and one fell a victim to Moloch; yet such was the apathy with which the scene was regarded, that although at the moment of this melancholy event there were, as usual, a group of the "*Mohawks*" tribe assembled to witness the rencounter, yet did they all take to flight in different directions, and left the unhappy man to breathe his last unassisted and unsupported.

This is the first and last fatal duel upon record in the Isle of Man; since that time the "*Mohawks*" have "*worn*

*their arms with a difference,*" and to a certain degree the peace of the community has been restored; the principals fled the island, and the rest of the parties, dividing the reflected glories of this exploit between them, sat down pretty quietly under the shade of their honours; only now and then taking advantage of the renewed fears of the ladies to mutter an execration, look fierce, and exhibit their skill at snuffing candles with pistol balls.

But as it is out of nature wholly to repress the effervescence of original fire, the "*Mohawks*" next assumed a new fancy; they clothed themselves in long dark cloaks, encouraged the growth of their whiskers and mustaches, girt their loins with leathern belts, in which they stuck pistols and a stiletto, and in this terrific array did a band of these worthies parade the streets of the town; yet I must do them the justice to say, I never heard of any essential mischief achieved by them, though one of them planted the lawn before his house with cannon, and certainly killed all the ducks and geese of a neighbouring farmer with grape-shot; but as he liberally paid the damage, it was, perhaps, as well as any other market to which the good dame could have sent her poultry.

Since this epoch there have been few striking alterations in the state of society, till the passing of the new act. At the present time all is peace and good order; the dissipated are nearly extirpated, the riotous effectually restrained, and, if I am not greatly mistaken in my calculations, the period is arrived when all distinctions being done away, the most easy and social intercourse will henceforth be established between natives and strangers; or rather, considering themselves as subjects of one government, the invidious distinction will be lost altogether in the common and enviable name of Britons.

*Some characteristic Superstitions of the Manx.*

**T**HE lower and middle orders of the Manx are, in common with all uncultivated people, greatly addicted to superstition; they have the fullest belief in fairies and witchcraft, and to the supernatural influence of one of these imaginary powers nearly all the good or ill that befalls them is ascribed. As these popular prejudices sometimes throw a considerable light on the character of a nation or people, I shall relate a few of the most prevailing legends, as specimens of the general faith.

Each of the two castles of Rushen and Peel has its appropriate apparition. In Rushen are said to be subterraneous apartments, inhabited by genii and giants, their existence having been ascertained by more than one adventurous hero, whose intrepidity has carried them through the mists and obscurity in which the paths leading to these abodes are enveloped. Besides the secluded inhabitants, there are two spirits of different degrees of importance, the one being the apparition of a woman executed for infanticide; the other, no less a personage than the magnanimous Countess of Derby; who, it is constantly affirmed, takes her nightly round on the walls of the castle, where she has been encountered by a multitude of persons, and at great distances of time: but no one has yet had so much compassion on either of these perturbed spirits, as to ask the cause of their wanderings, without which formula, according to the established etiquette of ghostly courtesy, it is impossible they should either reveal their uneasiness, or rest in their graves.

At Peel Castle is a spectre of still greater notoriety, called the *Manthé Doog*, who, so long as the garrison was

maintained, made his nightly visits to the guard-room, in the shape of a large black hound. This alarming visitor had continued the practice for so great a length of time, that the soldiers grew familiar with his presence, and one at length, inspired by liquor, took the resolution to follow the animal to his retreat, which none had yet ventured to explore. It was in vain his comrades sought to restrain the hardihood of this champion; he actually set out in pursuit of the mysterious intruder; but on his return, which was somewhat speedier than they had expected, he was deprived of all power to relate his adventures, being both speechless and convulsed, in which condition he remained three days, and then died. This tale is alluded to by Walter Scott, in his poem of *Marmion*:

"But none of all the astonish'd train  
Were so dismay'd as Delbraine;  
His blood did freeze, his brain did burn,  
'Twas fear'd his mind would ne'er return;  
For he was speechless; ghastly, wan!  
Like him, of whom the story ran,  
Who spake the spectre Hound in Man."

A long story is very gravely related in Sacheverel's account of the island, which I shall repeat in his own words.

"In the year 1600; upon the late king's going to Ireland, a little boy, then scarce eight years old, frequently told the family in which he lived, of two fine gentlemen who daily conversed with him, gave him victuals, and something out of a bottle of a greenish colour, and sweet taste, to drink. This making a noise, the present deanster, a man of good sense and probity, went into the mountains to see if he could make any discovery what they were. He found the boy, who told him they were then sitting under a hedge about a hundred yards from him. The deanster bade the boy ask why he could not see them;

the boy accordingly went to the place, put off his cap, and made his reverence, and returning, said it was the will of God they should not be seen, but the gentlemen were sorry for his incredulity. The deemster then pulled out a crown-piece, and asked the boy what it was? He answered—he could not tell. He then bade him ask the gentlemen: from whom the child, returning again, told him they said it was silver, and had shown him a great deal of such silver, and some yellow silver besides.

“Another day, a neighbouring minister going into the mountains, the boy told him they were then in a barn hard by, exercising the pike. He went to the place pointed out, and saw a pitch-fork moving about in all the proper postures of exercise; upon which, rushing into the barn, the fork was struck to the roof, but no person to be seen. Another day, the boy came and told Captain Stevenson, that one of them came with his hand bloody, and said he had been in a battle in Ireland. The captain marked the day, and though they had no news for nearly a month after, yet, when it did come, it agreed exactly with the time Colonel Wolsley had given the Irish a considerable defeat.

“I could give you,” adds this author, “a hundred other instances during their stay, which was above a month; but, at last, the king came with his fleet into Ramsay Bay, which, one of them telling the other before the boy, he answered, it was well the king was there in person, for if he had sent never so many generals his affairs would not prosper—and, speaking to the boy, told him they must go with the king into Ireland; that he might tell the people of the island that there would be a battle fought between Midsummer and St. Columbus’ day, upon which the future fortune of Ireland would depend, which exactly agreed with the battle of the Boyne; that the war would last ten or twelve years, but that, in the end, King William would be victorious over all his enemies.”

Nor is the belief in these supernatural appearances become obsolete; to this moment, every damsel who rambles beyond the precincts of the farm-yard at night, incurs the danger of meeting fairies, and it is seldom they return without a circumstantial history of miraculous adventures. Collins, the poet, calls Man the "fairy-land." And as to the influence of witchcraft, it is an article of faith standing on much higher ground than the creed.

If a fisherman makes one or two unsuccessful trips, he instantly proceeds to exorcise his boat by burning gorse or straw in the centre, and carrying the flaming material to every crevice where it is supposed the evil spirit may continue to lurk. If a cow is diseased, or any difficulty occurs in churning, the operation of the *evil eye* is immediately suspected, and a strict inquiry is made as to who may have been lately upon the spot; for the power of doing mischief is by no means confined to a few malignant individuals, but seems to be generally ascribed by every one to an adversary, or a rival.

Conversing on this subject with a farmer of good information on general affairs, he expressed the utmost astonishment, not unmixed with terror, at the scepticism with which I listened to some of these supernatural histories, in confirmation of which he related one story, to the truth of which he offered to bring unquestionable evidence, if my unbelief should yet maintain its ground. He asserted, that two years before that time, he and a neighbour were in treaty for the sale and purchase of a pony, but differing about the price, his neighbour, vexed at his disappointment, *put an evil eye* upon the beast, which *instantly*, and without other visible cause, became so lame as to be wholly useless, and so continued for twelve months; when, by extraordinary good luck, another person called on him, who had on his part the power to discern these unrighteous influences where they had been exercised, and to do them away by a counter charm. No sooner had

this man cast his eyes on the animal, than he pronounced his lameness to have originated with the malignant purchaser; and after performing certain ceremonies, he assured my informer that the spell was broken, and that within a few hours the pony would be restored to perfect soundness and strength, all which, in course, happened as foretold.

The witches and fairies of Man are neither supposed to combine, nor to produce exactly the same effects by their power, the former being wholly employed in acts of aggression, whilst the latter have a mixed jurisdiction, and can produce both good and evil by their operations. They are accustomed to perform certain frolics, which show some degree of humour and whim in their propensities: they are also easily assailable by bribes: thus the dairy-maid, who would spare herself unusual exertion, regularly makes the offering of a small pat of butter, or a piece of cheese curd, which is affixed to the wall of the dairy, and is believed to propitiate these invisible agents. The livers of fowls and fish are uniformly sacrificed to the fairies. At Midsummer-eve, when their power is of unlimited extent, flowers and herbs are the only barriers to their incursions; and these are regularly spread on the door and window-sill to protect the inhabitants.

But one of the most curious ceremonies, and which, I believe, is peculiar to the Isle of Man, is, that of *hunting the wren*, founded on a tradition, that in former times a fairy of uncommon beauty exerted such undue influence over the male population, that she at various times seduced numbers to follow her footsteps, till, by degrees, she led them into the sea, where they perished. This barbarous exercise of power had continued for a great length of time, till it was apprehended the island would be exhausted of its defenders, when a knight-errant sprung up, who discovered some means of countervailing the charms used by this syren, and even laid a plot for her destruction, which



she only escaped at the moment of extreme hazard, by taking the form of a *wren*; but though she evaded instant annihilation, a spell was cast upon her, by which she was condemned on every succeeding New Year's Day, to reanimate the same form, with the definitive sentence, that she must ultimately perish by a human hand. In consequence of this *well authenticated* legend, on the specified anniversary, every man and boy in the island (except those who have thrown off the trammels of superstition,) devote the hours between sun-rise and sun-set to the hope of extirpating the fairy, and woe be to the individual birds of this species, who show themselves on this fatal day to the active enemies of the race: they are pursued, pelted, fired at, and destroyed, without mercy, and their feathers preserved with religious care, it being an article of belief, that every one of the relics gathered in this laudable pursuit is an effectual preservative from shipwreck for one year; and that fisherman would be considered as extremely foolhardy, who should enter upon his occupation without such a safeguard.

Another tradition, preserved by Waldron in his Account of the Isle of Man, relates, that about fifty years before his residence there, an adventure had been achieved, of which there were living witnesses in his time. It originated in a project, which was conceived by some philosophers, to fish up treasures from the deep, by means of a diving-bell. A venturous hero being enclosed in one of these machines was let down, and, in his descent, continued to pull for more rope, till all they had on board was completely expended, though such had been their precaution, that they had gone out provided with a length of line which, according to their calculation, was sufficient to descend at least double the number of leagues that the moon is computed to be distant from the earth! At such an extreme depth as this adventurer had explored, great wonders might reasonably be expected, and such he en-

countered, for when, after awaiting his further signal till their patience was exhausted, his companions wound up the rope, and brought the submarine traveller to the upper regions again; he gave a most splendid account of the scenes he had left.—“After,” said he, “I had passed the region of fishes, I descended into a pure element, clear as air, through which, as I floated, I saw the bottom of the watery world, paved with coral and a shining kind of pebble, which glittered like sun-beams reflected on glass. On looking through the little windows of my prison, I saw streets and squares on every side, ornamented with huge pyramids of crystal, and one building in particular attracted my attention, composed of mother-of-pearl, embossed with shells of various descriptions, and all colours. Having with infinite difficulty forced my enclosure towards this palace, I got entrance into a very spacious room; the furniture was amber, and the floor inlaid with diamonds, topazes, rubies, and emeralds: I saw also several rings, chains, and carkanets, of all manner of precious stones, set after our fashions, which, I suppose, had been the prey of the winds and waves. These were hanging loosely on the jasper walls, and I could easily have made a booty of immense value, if, at the moment when I had edged my machine near enough to reach them, you had not interposed between me and my good fortune, by the precipitancy with which I was drawn back at the moment of success.”\*

This story, which, at least, proves the poetical talent of the adventurer, may serve the metrical tale-mongers of the present day, and give a little variety and relief from the tiresome sameness of silver moon-beams and verdant meadows, especially if duly interspersed with the loves of the mermen and maids, who, according to the narrator, inhabit these splendid abodes.

\* See Waldron's Works, page 176.

*Prices of Provisions—Rent—Servants' Wages, &c.*

**A**LL that remains of my task is to give that promised scale of prices, which may enable persons interested in the inquiry, to form an estimate of the expences incident to a residence in the Isle of Man.

Rent will be found to be the heaviest article of family expenditure. A respectable house of from ten to twelve rooms can scarcely be met with in a good situation, either in Douglas or Castletown, under £30 or £40 per annum. The towns of Ramsay and Peel offer accommodations at a much lower price. Lodgings furnished are let in proportion; unfurnished, few can be met with.

The best mode of providing moveables is from Liverpool, where they can be purchased cheaper, freight included, than in the island; except at sales, whence many persons collect their furniture on very moderate terms: but these transfers of property are much less frequent than they were, when the resort of strangers was greater.

Wages of female domestics are in proportion to their abilities, from £4 to £7 per annum. Those who neglect to hire at May and November are often greatly inconvenienced, as in the intervals few good servants can be met with. The natives will always be preferred on experience, notwithstanding they are somewhat less intelligent, yet are they much more trustworthy than those from the neighbouring counties, for this obvious reason, that persons of good character in that class will hardly find it necessary to leave their native place in pursuit of *lower wages*. Men servants, to occupy the posts of butler, groom, or even footman, are hardly to be procured: their salaries are in consequence quite undetermined.

Butchers' meat is somewhat above the proportionate rate of other articles, except pork, which is often as low as 3d. a pound; for the rest, beef, mutton, and veal, average 7d. Wheat is at this time only 3s. the bushel; fine flower 20s. coarse 17s. the cwt. Oatmeal is an article of general consumption, being made into flat cakes as a substitute for wheaten bread, and always used at the servant's table.

Of well fed and full grown fowls or ducks the price is 2s. 6d. the couple; a goose from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a turkey from 3s. to 5s. Fish is abundant and cheap; a good dish may almost always be had for one shilling, sometimes for half the sum. The sorts most abundant, besides herrings, are rock cod, whiting, mackerel, gurnet, haddock, with most kinds of flat fish. None of the shell fish are very plentiful, except crabs. Scollops and lobsters are to be met with in the season; the latter, large and small together, are sold for 9s. the dozen. The oysters on the coast are not good, but a supply sometimes come in from Ireland.

Wines and liquors are articles of luxury to be had on very moderate terms. Port about 28s. the dozen, which is of an excellent quality; the white wines are neither so good nor so cheap; and with regard to the former, it is much the best plan to import a pipe. This is usually done by economists; and where the quantity is too much for one family, two or more join together, and by this means procure a better article considerably under the retailer's price. Rum is 9s. the gallon, brandy 12s. geneva 10s. As a custom prevails of rewarding all small services with a glass, it is the practice with most people to be provided with an inferior sort of rum for this purpose. Ale is sold in barrels at one shilling the gallon; but this price is far beyond the average of malt and hops; and if families were to adopt the practice of brewing for their own consumption, they would find an essential saving.

Coals are from 26s. to 34s. according to quantity or scarcity, per ton. Grocery is regulated by the English

at first much puzzled by the difference between Manx and English money. In general the prices charged in the shops are calculated on British currency, but the dealings in the market, and with the country people, are carried on usually upon the old terms of 14d. to the shilling. Butter is from 10d. to 1s. the pound; eggs twenty for a shilling on an average of the year.

All that I have now stated refers to a residence in the towns; but persons to whom a strict economy is either desirable or necessary, would in all probability find it combined with more ease and comfort at a short distance in the country, where very good family houses are easily attainable, with ten or twenty acres of land, on moderate terms. The wages of a labourer are from £12 to £14 per annum with his board; or if he maintains himself, and is a superior workman, 12s. per week in summer, and 10s. in winter. The price of a good cow in full milk is from £10 to £14 according to the size. The quantity of milk averages about four gallons per diem; two of these will supply a moderate family with seven or eight pounds of butter per week, besides the ordinary consumption of milk and cream. If, in addition, they can raise their own grain, potatoes, and poultry, the articles to be purchased with money come within a very moderate compass. I know several families of eight or ten persons who have adopted this system, and live in the utmost ease and abundance on £300 per annum, many of them *keeping a carriage*; by which, however, I mean simply a convenience for moving from place to place, combining neither show nor state, driven by the labourer in his Sunday clothes, sitting behind the same horses he at other times follows in the plough or the cart: for as there are no taxes on these sort of vehicles, nor even a turnpike to add to the charges, the first cost is the whole consideration; and this may be large or small according to the taste or the ability of the purchaser.

The foregoing estimate, I think, cannot fail to prove the assertion, that in point of expence the Isle of Man offers a favourable retreat for persons of middling fortune: for if the advantage and recommendations thus set forth, are not considered as more than a counterbalance to the few defects and inconveniences which I have stated with equal impartiality, it must be that *I* have failed in my intended description of both; or that an undue weight is given to points which, in fact, though material blemishes in the constitution, are yet far from being generally felt. In writing the history of the island, and particularly of its present state, I should have been justly chargeable with disingenuity if I had disguised or omitted palpable facts; but nothing can be more true, than that numbers have resided for years without feeling the operation of these evils, which are like a latent or an hereditary distemper, neither felt nor seen till concurring circumstances awaken or call forth the lurking evil.

A short space of time, a little correction of defects in the laws, and a hearty co-operation with future settlers, is, I am persuaded, all that is wanted to restore the island to a higher degree of prosperity than it has ever yet known. The Isle of Man has within itself the seeds both of ease and plenty; and surely the wisdom to give them due cultivation, will not be wanting in a people who have in the last few years made such rapid advances in intellectual improvement.



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# APPENDIX.



No. 1.

*Rev. Mr. Wilson's Letter to the Earl of Derby.*

MY LORD,

**N**OTHING but a sense of duty and gratitude would have put me upon this liberty ; but because I have reason to believe it concerns your lordship, I can willingly hazard all future favours your lordship designs me, rather than be silent in a matter of this moment, though I have no reason to fear any such consequences. I do, therefore, with all imaginable submission, offer these following particulars to your consideration.

First, Though several of the debts be, as your lordship urges, unjust, and, perhaps, most of the bills in part unreasonable, yet is it very probable that a great many are really just ; and if these are not paid, those who suffer have just complaint to God and man, which must certainly have an ill influence on your lordship's affairs.

Secondly, That several in this neighbourhood are undone, if they are not speedily considered ; they are forced to the last necessity, some to sell their estates, others to leave their country, or lie in jail for debts which are owing to them from your lordship. They come day after day



with tears and petitions, which hereby cause any losses of ; and so your lordship never comes to know what they suffer. Your lordship sees what methods the rest, who are more able, are taking ; and you best know what may be the consequence : but however it ends, if their demands are just, they will still have reason to complain of the wrong that is done them.

Your lordship is never suffered to know the influence these things have on your ~~temporal~~ affairs ; but I am ready to make it out, whenever your lordship shall think it your interest to inquire into this matter, that you constantly pay one-third more for what you want than other people do. I know very few care or are concerned at this ; but I cannot but see and lament this hardship, which cannot possibly be remedied till your lordship has taken some order with your creditors, and reformed those who have the disposal of your monies.

I am not able to foresee how these things will end, and one cannot tell what they may be forced to attempt. It is too likely that if any disturbance happen in the government, their wants may make them desperate, and their numbers insolent. I have been lately told, some of them have threatened some such thing. And now, my lord, if I have said any thing unbecoming me, I hope your lordship will pardon me, and think it a fault of indiscretion rather than design. I mean honestly, and that your lordship may think so, I do protest in the presence of God, that I had rather beg all my life than be so far wanting to my duty, as not to have given you these short hints, which your lordship could not possibly have, but from some faithful servant, as I presume to subscribe myself, &c. &c. &c.

THOMAS WILSON.

*Bishop Wilson's Character of his Wife, extracted from  
the Prayer composed by him on her Death.*

The memory of the just is blessed.—Prov. x. 7.

**ALMIGHTY** God, the author of life and death, who dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men; I do, in all humility, submit my will entirely to thine, most humbly beseeching thee to accept of my thanks and praise for all the graces and favours vouchsafed to my wife, now in peace; for her great modesty and meekness of spirit; for her remarkable duty to her parents, and love to her relations; for her great love to me and my friends, and for her fidelity to her marriage-yows; for her tender affection for her children, in performing all the offices of a kind and pious mother; for her peculiar care of her family, and the prudence and mildness by which she governed it; for her unaffected modesty in her own and her children's apparel, and the great humility of her conversation with all sorts of persons; for her great compassion for the poor and miserable, and her cheerful compliance with me in relieving them.

I bless thy holy name for these, and all other fruits of thy holy Spirit; but above all, I most heartily thank the Lord for her piety to him during her health, and for his mercies to her in the time of sickness; for her hearty repentance, stedfast faith in the promises of the Gospel's unfeigned charity; her humble submission to God's good pleasure, and patient suffering what his hand had laid upon her; for all the spiritual comforts the gracious God

did vouchsafe her, the opportunities of receiving the blessed sacrament, the prayers of the faithful, the ministry of absolution, and the assistance of her pious friends at the hour of death.

With these reflections I comfort my soul, stedfastly believing, that none of these graces and favours were lost upon her ; but that she departed in the true faith and fear of God ; and therefore I do humbly pray to thee, Oh blessed Jesus, in whose hands are the souls of the faithful, after they are delivered from the burthen of the flesh, that we may in thy good time meet in joy, and have our perfect consummation in bliss, both in body and soul, in thine eternal kingdom, &c.

*See Life of Thomas Wilson, 4to. vol. I. p. 32.*

## No. 3.

*Bishop Wilson's Address to his Children.*

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

**I**F I do not live to tell you why I have saved no more for you out of my bishopric, let this satisfy you : that the less you have of goods gathered from the church, the better the rest that I leave you will prosper. Church livings were never designed to make families, or to raise portions out of them, but to maintain our families, to keep up our hospitality, to feed the poor, &c. And one day you will be glad that this was my settled opinion ; and God grant that I may act accordingly !

Remember, that the daughter of a priest, if taken in a fault, was to be put to death under Moses's law. Lev. xxi. 9.

I never expect, and I thank God I never desire, that you or your children should ever be great ; but if ever the providence of God should raise any that proceed from my loins to any degree of worldly wealth or honour, I desire they will look back to the place and person from whence they came. This will keep them humble and sober minded. But above all, I desire they will never think themselves too good to be servants.

*Bishop Wilson's Letter to the Keys.*

To the Twenty-four Keys, Representatives of the Commons of this Isle.

GENTLEMEN,

**A**MONG the many indignities put upon us, the bishop and vicars general, of late years, by the temporal court, that of being fined at the last Tynwald is not the least afflicting. In regard that whatsoever is said to be done at that solema assembly, (as is the order for fining us,) will by posterity be understood to have been done with the knowledge and approbation of the whole, which consisting of the governor, council, deemsters, and twenty-four keys, we desire to know whether you, the said keys, were made acquainted with, or gave your consent to, the said order, or to our present imprisonment?

And forasmuch as we were that day openly charged with exercising a spiritual tyranny, you who dwell in several parts of this isle, may do us the justice of testifying whether you know or believe there be any just cause for so heavy, and (as we persuade ourselves) so groundless an imputation.

THOMAS SODOR AND MAN.

WILLIAM WALKER, }  
JOHN CURGHEY. } Vicars General.

*Dated Castle Rushen, July 10, 1722.*

*The Answer of the Keys.*

MY LORD AND REV. GENTLEMEN,

**W**E the Keys of Man, as well to satisfy your lordship, and you the ecclesiastical judges, as to justify ourselves to posterity, do hereby certify and declare, that though we were present at the Tynwald during the whole time of the sitting of the court, and until the same was dismissed as usual, we were neither made acquainted with nor gave our consent to the order you mention; neither was any such order there made or concerted; and therefore we could not but be much surprised to hear of your being then fined, and afterwards imprisoned.

As to the charge of exercising a spiritual tyranny, we do solemnly testify (as we are in duty bound) that there is no cause to us known for so strange an imputation, being verily persuaded, that you have been so far from assuming to yourselves an undue authority, that the church was never better governed than in your time, nor justice more impartially administered in the ecclesiastical courts of this isle.

J. STEVENSON,  
ROBT. CURPHEY,  
WM. CHRISTIAN,  
SIL. RATCLIFFE,  
THOS. CORLET,  
JAMES BANCKES,  
THOS. CHRISTIAN,

PHIL. MOORE,  
J. WATTLEWORTH, JUN.  
JAS. CHRISTIAN,  
JOHN CURGHEY,  
JOHN MURRAY,  
EDMUND CORLET,  
JOHN CHRISTIAN.

I, Thomas Stevenson, not being present at the Tynwald, agree with my brethren only in respect of the latter clause.

THOS. STEVENSON.

them. FIVE of our members were absent at the signing  
hereof.

JOHN STEPHENSON.

*Castletown, July 11, 1782.*

See Appendix to the *Life of Thomas Wilson*, 4to. vol.  
1, p. 112.

## No. 5.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

**T**HE humble petition of Thomas Wilson, D. D. in behalf of his father, the Bishop of Man, and the inhabitants of the island, humbly sheweth,

By the late embargo, and an act of Parliament just now passed, the corn and provisions are prohibited from being exported to the Isle of Man, from any port of the three kingdoms; by which means your petitioner's father, and the inhabitants of that place, labour under the inexpressible want of provisions, especially bread corn; so that, if not speedily relieved, many thousands are in imminent danger of being starved. And what adds to their melancholy circumstances is, that it hath pleased God to afflict them with a pestilential flux, owing, in a great measure, to the want of wholesome food.

In this deplorable case they have no other way left, but to apply to his sacred majesty, the father of his people, that he will be graciously pleased to order a certain quantity of bread corn from the ports of Liverpool or Whitehaven; they giving security that it shall be landed and expended only for the use of the inhabitants of the Isle of Man. The granting of which will for ever lay the said bishop and the inhabitants under the most lasting sense of gratitude, and the sincerest acknowledgments for a favour to which they are to owe their health and lives.



*Letter to the King.*

MAY IT PLEASE THE KING'S MOST SACRED MAJESTY

**T**O receive the most grateful acknowledgments of the ancient Bishop of Man, for his majesty's great condescension and late royal favour to the son of the bishop, whose obscure diocese, and remote situation, might justly have forbid him all expectations of so high a nature from a royal hand. May both the father and the son ever act worthy of so distinguishing a favour! and may the King of kings bless his majesty with all the graces and virtues which are necessary for his high station and for his eternal happiness, and enable his majesty to overcome all the difficulties he shall meet with abroad,\* and bring him back to his kingdom here in peace and safety; and finally to an everlasting kingdom hereafter; which has been and shall be the sincere and constant prayer of his majesty's most grateful, dutiful, and faithful subject and servant,

THOMAS SODOR AND MAN.

*Isle of Man, May 8, 1743.*

\* The king was in Hanover.

**I** AM both surprised and pleased with the unexpected favours conferred upon you, both by the king and the Bishop of Salisbury. I hope in God you will answer the great ends of his providence, in raising you such friends, and in putting into your hands such unlooked-for talents, in order to improve them to his glory, and to your own salvation. For my own part, I have ever received such favours with fear, lest I should be tempted to dishonour God by his own gifts; and it shall be my daily prayers for you that you may never do so. This was the case with the wisest and greatest of men, whose history and fall were part of this day's service of the church.

Enclosed you have a letter to his majesty. Perhaps, you may not approve of the style (*his* instead of *your* majesty,) but I know it to be more becoming, and will be better accepted by a foreigner, and therefore it shall pass.

I have also written to the Bishop of Salisbury, to whom my most grateful service and thanks. According to my notion of writing to his majesty, I ought not to have subscribed my name; but I have done it, lest you should have thought otherwise.

*Heads of a Bill, proposed in Tynwald, for Amendment of the Criminal Law.*

**ISLE of Man to wit.**—WHEREAS, by an act of Tynwald, promulgated in the year of our Lord 1737, it is enacted, that “No court, judge, or magistrate, within this isle whatsoever, shall have power or authority for the future to impose or inflict any fines or punishment upon any person or persons within the said isle, for or on account of any criminal cause whatsoever, until he, she, or they be first convicted by the verdict or presentment of four, six, or more men, as the case shall require, upon some statute law in force in the said isle.” And whereas doubts have been entertained whether such act of Tynwald extends to treasons and felonies at and by the common law of the island, or only to other smaller crimes, offences, and misdemeanors.—We therefore, &c. And be it enacted, &c. &c. That the said act of Tynwald shall not be construed to extend to any treason or felony which subsists at, by, and under the common law of the island.—And whereas it is expedient that certain treasons, felonies, misdemeanors, crimes, and offences should be described with greater certainty than has hitherto been done by the laws of the island; and that certain other crimes and offences should be enacted and declared to be treasons, felonies, and misdemeanors.—Be it therefore further enacted,

**TREASONS.**

1. That the felonious and traitorous compassing or imagining the death of our sovereign lord the king, of our

Ady the queen, or of their eldest son and heir, is and shall be held to be *high treason*, and punishable by death.

2. That the felonious and traitorous violation of the king's companion, or king's eldest daughter, unmarried; or the wife of the king's eldest son and heir, is and shall be held to be *high treason*, and punishable by death.

3. That the felonious and traitorous levying war against our sovereign lord the king in his realm, is and shall be held to be *high treason*; and punishable by death.

4. That the felonious and traitorous adhering to the king's enemies in his realm, the giving them aid and comfort in the realm, or elsewhere, is and shall be held to be *high treason*, and punishable by death.

5. That the felonious and traitorous counterfeiting the king's great seal, or privy seal, or his sign manual, or privy signet, is and shall be held to be *high treason*, and punishable by death.

6. That the felonious and traitorous counterfeiting the king's money, or the bringing false money into the said isle, counterfeit to the king's coin, knowing such money to be false, to merchandize, and making payment withal, is and shall be held to be *high treason*, and punishable by death.

7. That the felonious and traitorous slaying the king's governor, the king's lieutenant governor, the members of the council, or any of them, the deemsters, or either of them, the keys, or any of them, being in their places, doing their offices, is and shall be held to be *high treason*, and punishable by death. And be it further enacted, &c That nothing shall be adjudged to be high treason in the said isle, but what is in and by this act enacted, declared, and described to be high treason, and that no person or persons shall be attainted of any of the treasons enacted, declared, and described by this act, except on some open and overt act and deed, charged against him, her, or them.

8. That the unlawful and felonious killing of another, with malice aforethought, either express or implied, is and shall be held to be felony and *murder*, and punishable by death.

9. That the felonious ravishment and carnal knowledge of a woman, against her will, is and shall be held to be felony and *rape*, and punishable by death.

10. That the felonious ravishment and carnal knowledge of a female child, under the age of ten years, either with or without her consent, is and shall be held to be felony and *rape*, and punishable by death.

11. That the felonious and carnal knowledge, against the order of nature, by mankind with mankind, or with brute beast, is and shall be held to be felony and *buggery*, and punishable by death.

12. That the felonious breaking and entering into the dwelling-house of another by night, with an intention to commit a felony, any person or persons being then inhabiting in such house, is and shall be held to be felony and *burglary*, and punishable by death.

13. That the felonious, wilful, and malicious burning of the house, mill, out-house, office, barn, stable, ship, boat, or vessel, of another, any person or persons being then in any such building, ship, boat, or vessel, other than the perpetrator or perpetrators of such burning, or aiding and assisting therein, is and shall be held to be felony and *arson*, and punishable by death.—And that the felonious, wilful, and malicious burning of any stack of corn, stack of hay, stack of straw, stack of furze, stack of turf, stack of ling, stack of fern, stack of wood, or stack of potatoe haulm, of another, any such stacks being adjoining to any house, out-house, office, barn, or stable, in any of which buildings any person or persons shall then be, other than the perpetrator or perpetrators of such burning, or the

felony and *arson*, and punishable by death.

14. That the felonious and forcible stealing, taking, and carrying away from the person of another, of goods or money, of any value, by violence, or putting such person in fear, is and shall be held to be felony and *robbery*, and punishable by death.

15. That the felonious *returning from transportation*, or the being seen at large within the said isle, without lawful cause, before the expiration of the term for which the offender was ordered to be transported, or had agreed to transport himself, or herself, is and shall be held to be felony, and punishable by death.

16. That the felonious and false making, *forging*, counterfeiting, or altering, or causing, or procuring to be falsely made, forged, counterfeited, or altered, or the willingly acting or assisting in the false making, forging, counterfeiting, or altering any act of Tynwald, or any decree, judgment, or execution, or any record or process of any of the courts of the said isle, or any verdict of any jury, or deposition of any witness, duly taken and signed by or before any court, magistrate, or jury, within the said isle, or any deed, charter, writing sealed, court roll, will, writing testamentary, bond, writing obligatory, memorial of the enrolment or registration of any deed or will, bill of exchange, promissory note for the payment of money, acquittance, receipt, either for money or goods, release or discharge of any debt, account, action, suit, or demand, the number of any principal sum of any accountable receipt for any note, bill, or other security, for the payment of money, or any warrant or order for payment of money, or delivery of goods, with the intention to defraud any person or corporation whatsoever, is and shall be held to be *forgery* and felony, and punishable by death, or transportation for life, at the discretion of the court of general gaol delivery, according to the malignity of the offence.

17. That the felonious *uttering, or publishing as true, any false, forged, counterfeited, or altered act of Tynwald, or any decree, judgment, or execution, or any record or process of any of the courts, or any verdict of any jury, or deposition of any witness, duly taken and signed by or before any court, magistrate, or jury, within the said isle, or any deed, charter, writing sealed, court roll, will, writing testamentary, bond, writing obligatory, memorial of the enrolment or registration of any deed or will, bill of exchange, promissory note for the payment of money, indorsement, assignment, or acceptance of any bill of exchange, or promissory note for the payment of money, acquittance or receipt, either for money or goods, release or discharge for any debt, account, action, suit or other demand, the number of any principal sum of any accountable receipt for any note, bill, or other security for the payment of money, or any warrant or order for the payment of money or delivery of goods, with the intention to defraud any person or corporation whatsoever, knowing the same to be false, forged, counterfeited, or altered, is and shall be held to be felony, and punishable by death or transportation for life.*—And be it enacted, that an act of Tynwald, passed in the year of our Lord 1797, intituled, “An Act for the punishment of Forgery, &c.” shall, as to all offences which shall be committed after the promulgation of this act, be and stand repealed.

18. That the felonious and unlawful stealing, taking, and carrying away of the personal goods of another, of the value of ten shillings or more, is and shall be held to be *grand larceny*, and punishable by death, or transportation for life, at the discretion of the court.—Provided, nevertheless, that the felonious and unlawful *stealing, taking, and carrying away of one or more sheep, or of any lamb, goat, or kid, of whatsoever value the same respectively may be*, is and shall be held to be grand larceny, and punishable by transportation for life.

*value of ten shillings* or more, knowing them to be stolen, is and shall be held to be felony, and punishable by death, or transportation for life, at the court's discretion.

20. That the felonious, wilful, and *malicious burning* of the house, mill, out-house, office, barn, stable, ship, boat, or vessel of another, or others, no person or persons being then therein, other than the perpetrator or perpetrators of such burning, or aiding and assisting therein; and that the felonious, wilful, and malicious burning of the stack of corn, stack of hay, stack of straw, stack of furze, stack of turf, stack of fern, stack of potatoe haulm, or stack of wood, of another, none of such stacks being adjoining to any house, out-house, office, barn, or stable, in any of which buildings any person or persons shall then be, other than the perpetrator or perpetrators of such burning, or aiding and assisting therein, are and shall be respectively held to be felony and *arson*, and punishable by transportation for life.

21. That the felonious, wilful, and *malicious shooting* at any person, with intent to slay or wound such person, where death does not ensue, &c. is and shall be held to be felony, and punishable by transportation for life.

22. That the felonious, violent, and *malicious wounding*, disabling, mutilating, and disfiguring of another, is and shall be held to be felony and *mayhem*, and punishable by transportation for seven or fourteen years, at the discretion of the court.

#### MISDEMEANORS.

23. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the making a *wilful, corrupt, and false oath*, in any matter or cause, legally depending in any suit or variance, by any warrant, citation, process, writ, action, bill, libel, complaint, petition, information, or indictment,



in any of the courts within the said isle, or before any magistrate, jury, person or persons, duly authorized by the laws of the said isle, to administer such oath, is and shall be held to be wilful and corrupt *perjury*, and a high misdemeanor, and punishable by fine, and imprisonment, and the loss of an ear, to be taken off at the public market-place.

24. That the unlawful and corruptly *causing or procuring* any person to commit wilful and corrupt perjury as aforesaid, is and shall be held to be *subornation of perjury*, and punishable by fine, and imprisonment, and the loss of an ear.

25 That the falsely and designedly obtaining any monies, goods, wares, or merchandises, from any person or persons, by means of any false token, counterfeit letter, or by any other false pretence or pretences whatsoever, with the intention to cheat or defraud any person or persons, is and shall be held to be *cheating and swindling*, and a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment, and corporal punishment.

26. That the knowingly *sending or delivering any letter or letters*, with or without a name or names subscribed thereto, or signed by a fictitious name or names, letter or letters, threatening to accuse any person or persons of any crime, punishable by the laws of the said isle, with intent to extort or gain money, goods, wares, or merchandises, is and shall be held to be a misdemeanor, and punishable by fine and imprisonment, and corporal punishment.

27. That the unlawful stealing, taking, and carrying away of the personal goods of another, under the value of ten shillings, is and shall be held to be *petty larceny*, and a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment, and corporal punishment.

28. That the doing of *wilful and malicious mischief* and damage to any of the buildings, lands, trees, shrubs, mounds, dikes, fences, ships, boats, horses, sheep, cattle,

or to any other goods and chattels of another, shall be proceeded against in the manner prescribed in and by an act of Tynwald, passed in the year 1758, intituled, "An Act for the better preventing Petty Larceny and Trespass," and shall be punishable as a misdemeanor by fine and imprisonment, besides compensation to the party aggrieved, in the manner prescribed by the said act.

29. That the unlawful killing of another, without malice either express or implied, is and shall be held to be *man-slaughter*, and a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment, and corporal punishment. Provided that, in all trials for murder, if the jury shall be of opinion, and find that the party accused has been guilty of man-slaughter only, the said jury shall, by their verdict, find him or her guilty of manslaughter; and that, in all trials for manslaughter, if the jury shall be of opinion, and find that the party accused has been guilty of murder, the said jury shall, by their verdict, indict him or her as for murder.

30. That if any woman shall *conceal her being with child*, during the whole period of her pregnancy, and shall not call for aid, and make use of help and assistance in the birth, and the said child shall be found dead or missing, such mother shall be held to be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by fine and imprisonment; provided, nevertheless, that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to discharge the mother of any such child from trial and punishment for murder, in case it shall appear that such child shall have been murdered by such mother, or by her procurement.

31. That the malicious striking and making *affray in any of the Courts of Justice of the island*, or the using threatening and reproachful words to the judge or court, the judge or court being then sitting, is and shall be held to be a misdemeanor, and punishable by fine and imprisonment.

32. That the wilfully *obstructing the execution of law-*

*ful process*; that the *breaking prison* by a person lawfully imprisoned; that the *forcible rescuing*, or attempting to rescue a person who shall be lawfully imprisoned; that *the escaping*, or attempting to escape, by a person lawfully arrested; that the voluntarily permitting, or negligently *suffering, a person to escape*, who shall be lawfully arrested or confined, are and shall be severally held to be misdemeanors, punishable by fine and imprisonment.—Provided always, and be it further enacted and declared, that nothing herein contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to affect, abridge, or alter, the power of courts of justice and magistrates to punish contempts as formerly accustomed; and that the house of keys, the clerk of the rolls, and the registers of the ecclesiastical courts, when in the execution of their respective offices, have, and shall have, the power of punishing contempts in like manner as any court or magistrate within the said isle.

33. That the *receiving of stolen goods*, under the value of ten shillings, is and shall be held to be a misdemeanor, and punishable by fine and imprisonment, and corporal punishment.

34. That the *compounding any treason, felony*, or misdemeanor, or the taking money or goods from a person accused of any crime, to forbear to prosecute, is and shall be held to be a misdemeanor, and punishable by fine and imprisonment, and corporal punishment.—And that so much, or such part of an act of Tynwald, promulgated in the year of our Lord 1737, as regards the compounding or agreeing not to proceed in any criminal prosecution, shall, as to all offences to be committed after the promulgation of this act, be and stand repealed.

35. That the *bribing*, or attempting to bribe, any magistrate or person connected in the administration of justice, to do any thing contrary to the duties of his office; or for any magistrate or person concerned in the administration of justice, to accept, or offer to accept a bribe, to do any

thing contrary to the duties of a juror, held to be a high misdemeanor, imprisonment, and disqualification from the place of public trust.

36. That the *attempting to* bribe the jurors, corruptly by promises of money, entertainment, or the like, of the jurors to be so corruptly held to be a misdemeanor, and imprisonment.

37. That the *stirring up* sedition against majesty's subjects, either by law or otherwise, be held to be a misdemeanor and punishable by fine and imprisonment.

38. That the *assembling of* a mob together, with an intent mutual to do some enterprise of a private nature against the peace, or to the maintenance of the peace, whether the act intended were of a public or private nature, and the persons concerned shall be held to be a misdemeanor, by fine and imprisonment, if two or more persons or more shall violently, in an unlawful manner, against the public peace, terror of the people, do any act, or attempt to do any act, such persons are and shall be held to be a riot, and shall be punishable as such by fine and imprisonment.

39. That the *violently entering* a dwelling house or tenements in the occupation of another, by force, without authority of law, shall be held to be a forcible entry and misdemeanor, and imprisonment.

40. That the unlawful keeping of a dwelling house or tenements, by menaces and force,

be a *forcible detainer*, and a misdemeanor, and punishable by fine and imprisonment.

41. That the *spreading false news*, knowing the same to be false, with intention to produce discord, and tumults, and strife, between his majesty's subjects, shall be held to be a misdemeanor, and punishable by fine and imprisonment.

42. That the *challenging another*, by word or letter, to fight with deadly weapons, either expressed or implied, or knowingly to be the bearer of such challenge, shall be held to be a misdemeanor, and punishable by fine and imprisonment.

43. That the *assaulting another, with an intent to commit murder*, rape, or robbery, or any other capital crime, is and shall be held to be felony, and punishable by transportation for life, or for any term of years, not less than fourteen, at the discretion of the court.—Provided, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to do away or alter the mode of proceeding in a summary way, without a jury in cases of common battery or passionate and provoking words, as heretofore accustomed.—Provided also, and be it enacted, that the fines imposed by an ordinance made in the year of our Lord 1661, for batteries and passionate words, provoking the same, and recognised by an act of Tynwald, promulgated in the year of our Lord 1787, be respectively altered and increased in manner following; that is to say, that the fine upon each offender in cases of common battery, shall be any sum not exceeding forty shillings, nor less than ten shillings; and that the fine upon each offender in cases of provoking language, shall be any sum not exceeding fifty shillings, nor less than thirteen shillings and fourpence, according to the degree and nature of the offence, as the court or magistrate shall think proper to affix, order, and award the same.—And that the committing a common assault, without a blow being struck, or battery actually committed,

shall be tried and punished in like manner as a common battery, as before mentioned.

44. That the having two wives or two husbands at the same time, shall be held to be *bigamy* and a misdemeanor, and punishable by fine and imprisonment, unless one of the parties has been continually abroad for seven years, or unless one of the parties has been absent within the island for seven years, and the remaining party has no knowledge of the other's being alive within that time, or unless there has been a legal divorce between the parties.

45. That the *malicious defaming or injuring* another, by publishing any libellous printing, writing, sign, or picture; concerning him or her, in order to provoke him or her to wrath, or to expose him or her to public hatred, contempt; or ridicule; or the scandalous publishing of any obscene, indecent, or immoral picture, printing, or writing, are and shall be severally held to be misdemeanors, punishable by fine and imprisonment.

46. That *all unlawful, indecent, and scandalous actings* and doings, not herein before specified, to the disturbance of the public peace, and against good order and good morals, of notorious evil example, are and shall be held to be misdemeanors, and punishable by fine and imprisonment.

#### PUNISHMENT.

And be it further enacted, &c. That all and every person or persons who shall be lawfully convicted of any of the treasons, felonies, misdemeanors, and offences herein before particularly described, enacted, and declared, shall be liable to, and shall suffer such capital punishment, transportation, corporal punishment, imprisonment, and fine, as to each respective treason, felony, misdemeanor, and offence, is herein before severally appointed, specified, declared, and annexed.—Provided always, that in cases of felony, no imprisonment shall be for a longer period than  
nor less than

save and except in such cases as are herein and hereby otherwise declared and enacted; and that in cases of misdemeanor, no imprisonment shall be for a longer period than two years, nor less than three months, and no fine to a greater amount than five hundred pounds.

#### TRIAL FOR TREASON AND FELONY.

And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that all the said treasons and felonies shall be tried in the Court of General Gaol Delivery, upon the prosecution of his Majesty's attorney-general of the said isle, for the time being, for, and in the name and behalf of the King, and upon indictments previously found in the accustomed manner of finding indictments in cases of treason and felony, by the law of the said isle.

#### TRIAL FOR MISDEMEANORS.

And that the said misdemeanors shall be tried either upon information preferred by the attorney-general, in the name and on the behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, or by petition, at the instance of a private prosecutor or prosecutors, in the presence of the deemsters, or one of them, by and before a jury of six good and lawful men of the sheading, wherein the party or parties accused, or some, or one of them, do or shall reside, or of such other sheading as may be ordered, on good cause shown, which jury shall be impannelled, by order or warrant of a deemster, and shall consist of an equal number of men from and out of each and every parish within such sheading; and that it shall be lawful for a deemster, on complaint lodged, by information or petition as aforesaid, and affidavit made to the truth thereof, to issue his order or warrant for apprehending and imprisoning any person or persons, charged with having committed any of the said misdemeanors, until he, she, or they, give in good and sufficient security, at the discretion of such deemster, to appear and

required.

And be it further enacted, that prosecutions for such misdemeanors shall be commenced, and effectually prosecuted within two months from the time of the apprehending and imprisoning of any person or persons charged with having committed any of the said misdemeanors, and not afterwards, unless good cause be shown to the said deemster why the same should be postponed.—And that, whenever, and as often as any person or persons so charged as aforesaid, shall have been so apprehended and imprisoned, such person or persons shall have it in his, her, or their power to apply for, and bring on his, her, or their trial, and shall also be entitled to, and obtain, such time for making his, her, or their defence as the deemster, on application made, shall think reasonable.—Provided always, that in all prosecutions for grand larceny, if the jury by whom the same shall be tried, shall be of opinion, and find that the goods stolen are under the value of ten shillings, such jury shall proceed and find a verdict as for petty larceny.

And that, in all prosecutions for petty larceny, if the jury by whom the same shall be tried, shall be of opinion, and find that the goods stolen are of the value of ten shillings, or more, such jury shall proceed, and, by their verdict, indict the offender or offenders of grand larceny.—And be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that the several provisions and enactments, respecting grand larceny and petty larceny, contained and enacted in and by an act of Tynwald passed in the year of our Lord 1629, and also in and by an act of Tynwald passed in the year of our Lord 1753, shall, as to all offences which shall be committed after the promulgation of this act, be, and the same are hereby severally repealed.



*Manx Coin.*

**I**TS ancient bearing was a ship; but the arms are now, and have been for centuries, *Gules*, three armed legs proper, or rather argent, conjoined in fess at the upper part of the thigh, fleshed in triangle, garnished and spurred topaz. So long as the King of Man wrote "*Rex Mannie et Insularum*," they bore the ship; but when the Scots had possession, with the Western Islands, the legs were substituted. It has been said of the three legs, that with the *toe* of the one they spurn at Ireland, with the *spur* of the other they kick at Scotland, and with the third they bend to England.

In 1733, the impression on the copper circulation was the arms of Man, three legs, with J. D. between the band and the motto (as now) "*Quocunque Jeceris Stabit*;" on the reverse, the eagle and the child on a chapeau, motto "*San Changer*;" beneath the chapeau, the date. In 1758, the Ducal coronet, with a cipher A. D. with the date under: the reverse, as before, without the initials J. D. In 1796, the King's head, with the date under, motto "*Georgius III. Dei Gratia*;" the reverse as before.

The three legs refer to the relative situation of the Island with respect to the neighbouring nations of England, Scotland, and Ireland, previous to the union between any two of these; since which the symbol entirely loses its propriety, and has become obsolete and unmeaning. While England, Scotland, and Ireland, were belligerent nations, the existence of Monabia as an independent state, must depend on an armed neutrality, and the alternate protection which it might be able to challenge from any one, against the hostile aggressions of the other two.

The legs are *armed*,—which denotes *self-defence*. The spurs denote *speed*; and while in whatever position they

are placed, two of them fall into the attitude of supplication; the third, which will be upward and behind, appears to be kicking at the assailant, against whom the other two are imploring protection. The *vis* of the symbol is, that if England should seek to oppress it, it would soon engage Ireland or Scotland; if either of these should assail it, it would hasten to call England to its defence. The motto, which is an Iambic Dimeter—*QUOCUNQUE JECERIS STABIT*—*Which ever way you throw it, it will stand*, is very ingeniously contrived to agree, both in sense and style, with the intention and attitude of the legs, whether taken in English or Latin. You cannot change the position of the legs in the plain, so as to alter their attitude, and no transposition of the words will change their sense. The occult moral of this emblem presents the instructive parable of—  
 “A brave man struggling with the storms of fate.”

The character is constituted by the conjunction of humility, energy, and fortitude. His attitude is that of supplication; but it is at the same time that of activity. He is only on one knee: with one limb he implores assistance, with two he serves himself. With the sense of dependence on strength superior to his own, he combines the most strenuous exertion of his own energies: to the modesty of supplication, he conjoins the discretion of armour and the activity of the spar. Whatever lot Providence may apportion to such a man,—wherever it shall cast him, he will stand.

READER, thou’st seen a falling cat  
 Light always on its legs so pat;  
 A shuttlecock will still descend,  
 Meeting the ground with nether end:—  
 The persevering Manxman thus  
 A shuttlecock or pauvre puss,  
 However thro’ the world he’s test—  
 However disappointed, crost,

Reverses, losses, fortune & crown;  
No chance or change can keep him down :  
Upset him any way you will,  
Upon his legs you find him still ;  
For ever active, brisk, and spunky,  
“*Stabit, jeceris, quocunque.*”

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### *Traditions and Superstitions.*

**T**HERE are but few records of the Island. The greatest part of them, in troublesome times, were carried away by the Norwegians, and deposited among the archives of Drunton, in Norway, where it is alleged they still remain : though it is reported, a Mr. Stevenson, a worthy merchant of Dublin, a few years since offered the then Bishop of Drunton a considerable sum of money for the purchase of them, designing to restore and present them to the Island ; but the Bishop would not part with them on any terms. The loss of these ancient records renders it impossible to ascertain how long the Island has been discovered, or by whom ; and to make up this deficiency, they relate the following marvellous history :

Some hundred years (say they) before the coming of our Saviour, the Isle of Man was inhabited by a certain species called *Fairies*, and that every thing was carried on in a kind of supernatural manner ; that a blue mist, continually hanging over the land, prevented the ships that passed by from having any suspicion there was an Island. This mist, contrary to the laws of nature, was preserved by keeping a perpetual fire, which happening once to be extinguished, discovered itself to some fishermen who were then in a boat on their vocation, and by them notice was given to the people of some country, (but what they do

a further discovery: that, on their landing, they had a fierce encounter with the little people (the fairies), and having got the better of them, possessed themselves of Castle Russin or Rushea, and by degrees (as they received reinforcements) of the whole Island. These new conquerors maintained their ground some time, but were at length vanquished by a race of giants, who were not extirpated until the reign of Prince Arthur, by Merlin, the famous British enchanter, who, by the force of magic, dislodged the greatest part of them, and bound the rest in spells which they believe will be indissoluble to the end of the world. They pretend also, that this Island afterwards became an asylum to all the distressed Princes and great men in Europe, and that these uncommon fortifications made about Peel Castle were added for their better serenity; but of this we shall treat hereafter.

: The tradition of what happened on suffering the domestic fire to be extinct, remained in such credit with them, that hardly a family in the Island, but kept a small fire continually burning: every one, at that time, confidently believing that if no fire were to be found, most terrible revolutions and mischiefs would have immediately ensued.

It is ignorance which is the cause of these excessive superstitions; but these few hints are not sufficient to show the world what a MANXMAN formerly was, and what power the prejudice of education had over weak minds. If books at one time had been of any use among them, one would have imagined that the Count of Gabalia had been not only translated into the Manx tongue, but that, it was a sort of rule of faith to them; since there is hardly a fiction being mentioned by him in his book of absurdities, to which they would not readily have given credit. It is doubtful, idolizers of the clergy as they once were, whether they would not have been refractory even to them, had they preached against the existence of fairies, or even

against their being commonly seen ; for though the priesthood were a kind of gods among them, yet still tradition was a greater god than they ; and as they confidently asserted that the first inhabitants of their island were fairies, so they maintained, that these airy beings had still their residence among them. They called them the *good people*, and said they lived in wilds or forests and on mountains, and shunned great cities, because of the wickedness committed therein. All the houses were blest where the fairies visited, because they fled from vice. A person would once have been thought impudently profane, who should have suffered his family to go to bed, without having first set a tub or pail full of clean water for these guests to bathe themselves in, which the natives averred they constantly did, as soon as ever the eyes of the family closed, wherever they vouchsafed to come. If any thing happened to be mislaid, and found again in some place where it was not expected, they told you a fairy took it and returned it : if you chanced to fall and hurt yourself, a fairy laid something in your way, to throw you down, as a punishment for some sin you had committed.

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*The Scenery of the Island ; Longevity of the Islanders, &c.*

THE inhabitants, like the Swiss and Highlanders, are warmly attached to their native mountains, and not without reason ; for the whole country is, in a high degree, beautiful, there scarcely being any of the same extent that can equal it in scenes of romantic grandeur. It has been considered by many judges of the picturesque, as inferior in these qualities to the Isle of Wight, only from its being destitute of the same luxuriant growth of wood. Let the

lovers of the romantic travel no farther than to the distance of about two furlongs, from the southern extremity of the Isle, where is a small rocky island, called the Calf of Man. This is fenced round by gloomy caverns and stupendous precipices; is tenanted by a great variety of sea fowl, which form a most striking and picturesque scene on the water, sitting in innumerable tiers one above another, and adorning with their white breasts the dark and towering rocks which encircle the Island,—their shrill discordant tones increasing the effect of the sensations that arise from the wildness of the scenery. The surface is rather barren; but there is every thing bearing the character of the sublime, tending to raise the bolder emotions of the mind, rather than amuse it with gentle sensations. The eye is regaled from its heights with the azure vault of heaven, and beneath, the briny surface is covered with swelling sails, either impelled with the cheerful breeze, or agitated by bleak winds or driving storms, while the surrounding earth presents a verdure—wild and innocent. On the edge of an awful precipice is the remains of an hermitage, said to have been the retreat of a person, in Queen Elizabeth's reign, who imposed on himself a residence in this dreary solitude, as a penance for having murdered a beautiful woman, in a fit of jealousy.

The longevity of the inhabitants is proverbial; but it is chiefly confined to the natives, and to those only who pass their lives in rural occupations, breathing the mountain air, habituated to early hours, living on simple diet, remote from the more populous towns, and unsophisticated by the refinements and luxuries of high life; for where these creep in and diffuse their baneful influence, it would be as absurd to look for the venerable head, silvered o'er with age, the ruddy countenance, and the vigorous strength of patriarchal times, as to hope to extract ice from a sunbeam, or fire from the mountain snow. Candidates for longevity, cannot expect to attain this distinction by merely

migrating to a country celebrated for it, unless they conform to the simplicity of nature, and study her salutary rules, who teaches her votaries to banish all superficial wants. And although it cannot be doubted, but that the free use of ardent spirits tends to shorten the scanty pittance of human existence, it is yet matter of surprise, that, in a country like the Isle of Man, where the *dram*, from its inferior price, is universally accessible, there are not to be found more instances of fatal devotedness to intoxication. The generality of the Manx may be distinguished for sobriety: slaves to riot and debauchery are to be found every where.

The following epitaph on a tombstone, in the churchyard of Kk. St. Ann, (generally called Kk. Santon) in this Island, proves the truth of these observations, showing also, that the "miserable conceit" of punning on the dead, survived longer in the Isle of Man than in any other country:—

### TO THE MEMORY OF DANIEL TEAR,

*Who died Dec. 9, 1787—aged 110.*

HERE, friend, is little Daniel's tomb :  
 To Joseph's years he did arrive ;  
 Sloth killing thousands in their bloom,  
 While labour kept poor Dan alive.  
 How strange, yet true, full seventy years  
 Was his wife happy in her *Tears*.

N. B. This person was a native. Sir Wadsworth Busk, Attorney-General of the Island, erected the stone, and wrote the verses; but it was generally thought he was really older than 110.

# EXTRACT

FROM THE

## JOURNAL OF A MODERN TRAVELLER ;

OR,

### *A Trip with the Manx Herring-Fleet*

IN 1821.

**I**N the month of September I arrived at Peel. It was the height of the season for the herring-fishing ; and just at this time the shoals were lying along that part of the coast which extends from Peel Castle to the Calf of Man. A great proportion of the male population of the island were consequently drawn to this place. It is from the herring-fishery that a great part of their subsistence is derived. There are few families of the interior, even those who reside in the most sequestered glens, or on its highest mountains, who do not delegate some of their members to share the scaly produce of the sea. The traveller who, at this season, passes round the island, can form but a very inadequate idea of its inhabitants. He may see, on every hand, the laborious females plying the sickle, and in long ranks of twenty or more sweeping away the golden produce of the fields. But of men, he will see few, except such as by age and infirmity are disqualified, or by sufficiency disinclined, to try their fortune on the propitious ocean, which for centuries has brought its treasures to the shores of Man. It is computed that not less than 3500 are annually employed in the herring-fishery. If the stranger should chance to be pursuing his journey on the Saturday,



he will notice groups of these marine adventurers returning to their rustic dwellings to pass the sabbath in rest and devotion. Indeed, in this respect, they are a laudable example to fishermen of other countries. If their sentiments be even charged with somewhat of superstition, they are such as are truly delightful to a Christian observer. Such deeply-rooted prejudices, in favour of religious observances, can only be the result of a system of pastoral care and holy instructions with which this island was favoured many generations ago. At this day, their religious prejudices are so strong against the practice of employing the Sabbath in fishing, or even going out late on a Sabbath evening, though they must necessarily wait till the same hour on the Monday evening, that it would not be in the power of any logic or rhetoric, any gain or necessity, to induce them to desecrate any part of God's day of rest by their sea-faring occupations.\* It is devoutly to be wished that this sacred feeling (call it superstition if you please) may long continue. If these hardy islanders would have Zebulon's blessing, "to suck of the abundance of seas, and of treasures hid in the sand," they will ever do well to pay the homage of awful reverence to that supreme Being whose "way is in the sea, and whose path in the great waters;" and who, in a just "controversy with the inhabitants of the land," might say, "The fishes of the sea shall be taken away." (Hosea iv. 1, 3.)

The return of these countrymen on Monday to the place of rendezvous, where the fleet has remained at anchor during the day of holy rest, is not a little interesting. Every Manxman musters his pony, accoutred with a rustic

\* The herrings being fish of passage, it has been pronounced lawful by the Church of Rome to employ the Sabbath in fishing for them; and a whole chapter in the *Decretals* is assigned to the discussion: but, on this subject, we may rejoice that the Manxman's religion is proof against the pope's infallibility.

saddle, composed of old stockings, sheep-skins, and pack-thread, shouldering his white bag filled with his homely food for a week's consumption; and plods away with his home-made sandals to his appointed harbour. It is not unusual for his wife, and one or two of his children, to accompany the cavalcade, riding the meagre nag; and with fervent wishes for their good fortune, cheering the road with domestic hilarity, and desiring to see the last of the parent-fisherman.

You may, from these circumstances, in some degree imagine the busy scene of preparation which was taking place on my arrival at Peel. The weather was fine, the wind favourable, and on every hand this plodding community were as full of transactions as can be conceived. The fishermen were converging from every quarter, bending beneath the load of nets which they were conveying to their respective boats; and a strange hollaing and bustling in a crowded harbour, while taking advantage of the returning tide, prevailed in every quarter. An anxiety to ascertain every information relative to the fishery carried me round among the busy throng; but not being satisfied with the usual currency of the answers given to strangers, I resolved to take *a night's excursion with the fleet*, when, away from the intrusion of the objects on shore, I might contemplate, from the actual scene of operations, what was justly anticipated to be a highly interesting spectacle.

Before we enter upon the detail of our nocturnal occupations, it may be necessary to give a general idea of those *migrations* which bring to this quarter a portion of the countless myriads of herrings which traverse the ocean.

*Herring* is a word derived from the German *heer*, an army, which expresses their number when they migrate into our seas.

"Herrings are chiefly found in the North sea. In those inaccessible seas, that are covered with ice during a great part of the year, the herrings find a quiet and safe retreat

from all their numerous enemies: there neither man, nor their still more destructive enemy, the sun-fish, or the cachalot, the most voracious of the whale kind, dares to pursue them. It is true, there are fisheries elsewhere, but none so copious. It hath been observed, that the arrival of the herrings on the coast of Shetland is certain, and almost to a day, on or before the 22d of June.

"It is commonly said, that nobody ever saw a herring alive, and that they die the minute they are taken out of the water; but there are instances to the contrary.

"The herring is a fish of passage; so that it is allowed to catch them on holidays and Sundays: in the Decretal there is an express chapter to this effect.

"The winter rendezvous of the herrings is probably the icy sea, within the arctic circle; as this sea swarms with insect food in greater abundance than in our warmer latitudes. From this sea the great colony of these fishes sets out about the middle of winter; and this colony is composed of such numbers as to exceed the power of imagination. But they have no sooner left their retreats than they have to encounter with a multitude of enemies. The sun-fish and cachalot devour them in great abundance; and besides, the porpus, the grampus, the shark, cod-fish, haddocks, pollocks, and the numerous tribe of dog-fish, find them an easy prey, and desist from making war upon one another. To these enemies we may add innumerable flocks of sea-fowl that chiefly inhabit the northern regions towards the pole, which watch the outset of their perilous migration, and spread among them extensive ruin. In this state of danger, the defenceless emigrants crowd closer together, as if they could thus secure themselves against the attacks of their enemies. The main body begins to separate, at a certain latitude, into two great divisions; one of which moves to the west, and pours down along the coasts of America, as far south as Carolina, and becomes so numerous in the Chesapeak bay as to be a nuisance to

the shores. The other division takes a more eastern direction towards Europe, and falls in with the great island of Iceland about the beginning of March. Upon their arrival on that coast, their phalanx, which hath already suffered considerable diminution, is nevertheless found to be of such extent, depth, and closeness, as to occupy a surface equal to the dimensions of Great Britain and Ireland; but subdivided into columns of 5 or 6 miles in length, and 3 or 4 in breadth; each line or column being led, according to the ideas of fishermen, by herrings of more than ordinary size. The herrings swim near the surface, sinking occasionally for 10 or fifteen minutes. The forerunners of those who visit the British kingdoms appear off Shetland in April or May, and the grand body begins to be perceived in June. Their approach is known to the fishers by a small rippling of the water, the reflection of their brilliancy, and the number of soland geese, or gannets, and other aerial persecutors, who are eager to devour them, and who, with the marine attendants, may serve to drive shoals of them into bays and creeks, where many thousands of them are taken every night from June till September. Although the Shetland islands break and separate the grand body of the herrings into two divisions, they still continue their course towards the south. One division proceeds along the east side of Britain, and pays its tribute to the Orkneys, the Murray firth, the coasts of Aberdeen, Angus, and Fife, the great river Forth, the coast of Scarborough, and particularly the projecting land at Yarmouth, the ancient and only mart of herrings in England, where they appear in October, and are found in considerable quantities till Christmas. The other division pursues its course from the Shetland islands, along the west side of Britain; and these are observed to be larger and fatter than those on the east side. After passing the Shetland and the Orkney isles, they crowd in amazing quantities into the lakes, bays, and narrow channels of the shires of Sutherland, Ross,

and Inverness; which, with the Hebride isles, especially the Long island, form the greatest stationary herring fishery in Britain; that upon the coast of Shetland excepted. Sometimes this shoal, in its southern progress, edges close upon the extensive coast of Argyleshire; fills every bay and creek; and visits, in small detachments, the firth of Clyde, Lochfine, and other lakes within the entrance of that river; the coast of Ayrshire, and of Galloway, to the head of the Solway firth. This shoal proceeds from the western shores of Scotland towards the north of Ireland; where, meeting with a second interruption, they are again divided into two brigades. One shoal passes down the Irish channel, visits the Isle of Man, and affords an occasional supply to the east coast of Ireland, and the west coast of England, as far as the Bristol channel. The other shoal skirts along the west coast of Ireland, where, after visiting the lakes of Donegal, it gradually disappears, and is finally lost in the immensity of the Atlantic. Herrings, it is observed, are not seen in quantities in any of the southern kingdoms, as Spain, Portugal, or the south parts of France, on the side of the ocean, or in the Mediterranean, or on the coast of Africa.

“Were we inclined,” says a well-known writer, “to consider this partial migration of the herring in a moral light, we might reflect with veneration and awe on the mighty power which originally impressed, on this most useful body of his creatures, the instinct that directs and points out their course, that blesses and enriches these islands, which causes them at certain and invariable times to quit the vast polar deeps, and offer themselves to our expecting fleets.”—“This impression was given them, that they might remove for the sake of depositing their spawn in warmer seas, that would mature and vivify it more assuredly than those of the frigid zone. It is not from defect of food that they set themselves in motion, for they come to us full of fat, and on their return are almost uni-

versally observed to be lean and miserable. What their food is near the pole, we are not yet informed ; but in our seas they feed much on the *oniscus marinus*, a crustaceous insect, and sometimes on their own fry. They are in full roe to the end of June, and continue in perfection till the beginning of winter, when they begin to deposit their spawn. Though we have no particular authority for it, yet, as very few young herrings are found in our seas during the winter, it seems most certain that they return to their parental haunts beneath the ice, to repair the vast destruction of their race during summer, by men, fowl, and fish."

Having selected a vessel with a decent crew, and a steady, intelligent, and communicative captain, (as you may style him,) and clad myself in a garb adapted for the purpose, I went on board. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the *May-flower* cleared off from the pier, and o'er the swellings of a majestic tide bore away to the expanding deep.

Having understood that it was the custom of the Manx fishermen to use a *short prayer* on going out to their occupation, I felt some disappointment in observing no religious ceremony : but my suspense was soon dissipated. Turning off from the rocks, on which the venerable castle reared its pile of mouldering fragments, the captain exclaimed, "Hats off, boys ;" when every man, with his face in his hat, and upon his knees, implored, for a minute, the protection and blessing of the Almighty, in the way he thought best. It was a gratifying spectacle. I cannot certify that the same expression of devotion was manifested in *every* vessel ; but I presume it is, to this day, a general practice.

Having been previously informed by a respectable islander, that some years ago he had seen a great number of the fishermen upon their knees in the market-place, imploring the divine goodness, and receiving the admonitions of a Christian minister, I was jealous of this glory having departed ; and at the sound of "Hats off, boys," a sensa-

tion of gratitude, tenderness, and sympathy, thrilled through my soul, which may be better conceived than described, and which can never be banished from my recollection. Solemn and affecting scene! How different from the loud oaths and vociferated curses of the ruthless seamen! How admirably adapted is such a ceremony, to remind the poor fisherman of an all-pervading Providence, by whose decrees his uncertain subsistence might be swept away in a moment! And let us not start back with a suspicious coldness from these indications of devotional feeling, and, classing them with unmeaning superstitions, afford them a jealous toleration, as being only adapted to the vulgar. There may be, there must be, among such a motley assemblage, both hypocrisy and superstition; but there is, in many, a holy sense of dependence, gratitude, and veneration, which systems of national education may long labour to produce, and which would be, if lost, a great and awful calamity.

Oft as the fleet from Mona's shore  
 Bears to the deep its changeful sail,  
 Let each his pray'r devoutly pour,  
 And consecrate the welcome gale!

We sailed out seven miles, and then returned three. During this, the men were busily employed in preparing the nets, which occupied nearly two hours. The nets are brought on board in separate pieces, generally about 25 fathoms long and 7 deep. The usual number of pieces is nine or ten. These are then joined together to make one complete length, which, when extending behind the boat, will reach from 400 to 500 yards. Stones are fastened to the bottom of the net to cause it to sink, and buoys are tied to the top by cords, regulated by the number of fathoms it may be thought necessary to allow the net to sink. The net is then carefully rolled up, so as to facilitate

its being passed, in its whole length, over the side of the boat.

The nets being prepared, the weary fisherman, stretching himself on the fore-castle, soon falls into a slumber, tired with the sleepless labours of the preceding night; while some of his companions, more wakeful because more interested, are keeping a watchful eye in every direction; to hail the appearance of those *signs* which may direct them in the choice of their situation for fishing.

The *fleet*, being now engaged in the same anxious circumspedition, presented a lively scene. With foresails down, to steady and slacken their sailing, they were all intent upon selecting the most favourable spot. A space of about ten miles in length, and from two to three in breadth, was now traversed to and fro, in rapid alternations, by about 350 vessels. The fishermen are very scrupulous about counting the vessels, superstitiously saying, as I heard myself, "If they count the ships, they shall catch no fish."

The fleet did not consist exclusively of Manx vessels. Many come, during the season, from Ireland, Scotland, and St. Ives in Cornwall. A little jealousy will necessarily be excited by the intrusion of these foreign fishermen; but that suspicious feeling seems to be wearing off, and giving way to the more liberal principle, that all have an equal title to the blessings of the sea. It is very certain that their interference cannot cause the Manxmen to catch fewer herrings. The mode of fishing adopted by the men of St. Ives is by many thought superior to that of the Manxmen; which is very probable, as they are, generally, more successful. The rapid interchanges of the vessels crossing and recrossing each other in their frequent tackings—the majestic rolling of the sea, whose cerulean waves were emblazoned by reflecting the golden clouds of an autumnal evening sky—the high spirits of the fishermen, who hailed an unusual promise in the "signs," which were making their appearance—the novelty and the peculiarity of the



scene—caused an indescribable interest, which was intensely kept up at this hour of the evening by an anxiety to witness the approaching labours.

It was now six o'clock. The signs were hailed on every hand. At the frequent animated cry of the sailors of "Down again, Down again," my attention was directed to the striking of the *gannet*, a bird which chiefly stays on the southern cliffs of the Calf of Man.\*

I observed these birds often flying and hovering in certain directions, when suddenly raising themselves to the height of from 200 to 300 feet, and fixing their wings to cleave the air with peculiar facility, they descend with amazing force and velocity in a line quite perpendicular, and plunge into the wave like the falling of an anchor. It has been proved that they can descend from 10 to 20 fathoms into the water. They remain under the surface about 15 seconds, and having succeeded in their errand fly off to their rocky retreats.†

Half an hour afforded the birds of prey their sufficient supply, when the horizon was seen cleared of these feathered invaders. This entertainment was, however, quickly succeeded by the appearance of the porpoises. This animal, the "*phocena delphinus*" of Linnæus, is the smallest of the cetaceous tribe: those we saw were about six feet

\* *Gannet* is the name used for the "*Pelecanus Bassanus*" of Linnæus, or the *soland goose*. Mr. Ray supposed the gannet to be a species of large gull; and he was led into the mistake by never having an opportunity of seeing this bird except flying, and in the air it has the appearance of a gull. On this supposition he gave it the title of *asteructa*, a name borrowed from Aristotle, and which admirably expresses the rapid descent of this bird on its prey.

† The Cornish mode of taking these birds, which cannot easily be shot, is, by fastening a pilchard to a board, and immersing it a little below the surface of the water; which when the gannet perceives, he precipitates himself with such violence from his aerial elevation, that his beak passes through the board, and he dashes his brains out.

different directions; afterwards, wheeling their finny backs in gentler volutions, they approached close to our boat. There is something in the idle, heedless whirl of these brawny creatures, taking their pastimes near, that affords peculiar amusement to a stranger in maritime excursions.

Availing themselves of these signs as the groundwork of their reasonings, the spectator was not a little amused to listen to the anxious disputation of the wiser ones. Every one thinks his own opinion best; and to please all, there may be sometimes no alternative but to strike sail where they are, and take their chance. It is, however, generally the case, that every vessel is quite satisfied with its situation, though some miles distant from others, which of course have the same predilection for the place they have chosen. Not far from us I observed a boat carrying a *flag*, which I found to be what is recognized by the honourable distinction of the *Admiral's boat*. The admiral rides near the centre of the fleet, and is appointed for the adjustment of differences between the boats; and the striking of his flag is the signal for the fleet to commence their work of fishing, which never takes place till *sunset*.

It was seven o'clock when the magnified orb of the blazing sun descended below the briny horizon, gleaming over the wide interposing main a broad flame of crimson, and left, in a few moments, behind him the milder reflections of the clouds, illumined by the effulgence of his setting. The admiral's flag was struck—the mainsail of each boat was quickly descending on the deck—the rusty teagles were screaming—the busy sailors shouting—and the vessels, spread far and wide upon the waters, were now stationary, and exhibited only a forest of naked masts as far as the darkening atmosphere would admit the perception of a vessel.

This was the hour of *adventure*. The nets were soaked with a few buckets of water to assist their sinking; each

individual fixed himself at his post; one to unrol the net, one on this side to adjust the stone weights, one on that to adjust the buoys, and two immediately before these to lift the net over the side of the vessel. In fifteen minutes the whole length was heaved over-board, and committed, in a trail of 500 yards, to the deep. They had now to trust to the providence of God. And I was unspeakably gratified to find that the conviction of an all-disposing Providence was not absent at a crisis when their hopes and fears were left in full operation. The sound of sacred harmony came on the gale of departing day from a vessel stationed to windward of us. It was a *hymn* sung lustily by the crew, who were reposing after their nets were struck. An unexpected salutation! A glow of sacred sympathy warmed my breast. I acknowledged the identity of that religion which can inspire the song of praise upon the Manxman's fishing-boat, as well as in the prison of Philippi. I conceded feelingly to the truth, that he that loveth God will love his brother also; and though I never saw, and never shall see, those untutored singers of Israel, I must confess, I felt that I must, as a Christian believer, love them. Remarking upon this to my fellow-sailors, I inquired if they never employed themselves in this way; and the captain, noticing the gratification afforded me by the vocal exercises of the adjacent crew, observed that "they were no great singers, but it was customary with them to have a word of prayer." "Boys, come aft," was no sooner spoken, than the willing company were seen upon their knees around me. A young man, not knowing my clerical office, commenced without ceremony, a simple, unaffected, and earnest prayer, to which I listened with peculiar pleasure, from the conviction that it was the evidence of a sincerity and a piety which were invaluable to its possessor; and still more so, because I found myself in a *house of prayer*, though tossed on the rude billows of the ocean. When this supplication ended, the claims of office,

and the bias of a devotional frame, constrained me to add my unworthy orison. Never did I realize more solemnly the presence of Jehovah, "who plants his footsteps in the sea, and rides upon the storm;" whose breath causeth "the waves thereof to rage and swell, till deep calleth unto deep at the noise of his waterpouts." I felt it incumbent upon me to implore his blessing upon our companions in the surrounding fleet, that they might "fear God, and worship him who made the sea and the fountains of waters;" and that they might be prepared to surrender their strict and solemn account to Him to whom "the sea must give up her dead;" that whenever they supplicated for mercy, they might be strong in faith, giving glory to God, and not "like the wave of the sea, that is driven of the wind and tossed;" that God would give success to their precarious occupation, and cause the net to be "cast on the right side of the ship;" and that the poor fishermen might not "toil all night, and catch nothing." I could not but supplicate for the island on whose shores we were billowed, that it might ever "wait for God's gracious law;" that the produce of the sea might ever be continued to them; and that the *Gospel-net* might be cast among them by a holy and zealous ministry; and that these blessings might be extended to the Islands of other climes, till "the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto God." Rising from our devotions, I was greeted with a fervent expression of their Christian affection.

The stars now glittered in the milky-way, and the bolder fires of the revolving planets supplied the place of the more powerful radiance of the absent moon. The light-houses at the extremities of the island were sending abroad at intervals a stream of benignant brightness. The blaze of these flickering beacons, so delectable to the bewildered mariner, brings with it associations of reflection and sympathy, which, if they be less affecting in sublimity than the contemplation of the bright orbs suspended on high by

the merciful Creator, are not less allied to those sentiments of tenderness and sensibility, which are elicited by empic-turing the melancholy scenes of shipwreck.

Though not unusually dark, it was sufficiently so to give effect to the glistening appearance of the shoals of fish that approached the vessel. If any thing could make one covet darkness, in such a situation, it would be that one might witness the flouncing and struggling of the funny multitudes that are entangled in the meshes of the net.

About 10 o'clock all hands were engaged to haul in the net, which is drawn, not as many suppose after the method adopted to circumvent and enclose the fish, but leisurely, over the side of the boat. The net, being suspended perpendicularly, only catches those fish of the shoals which by traversing to and fro are entangled by the gills. At least, this is the Manx method.

The drawing in of the net is a beautiful sight. Perhaps from ten to twenty herrings in every lineal yard come tumbling over the side of the boat, if they have tolerable success. The net assumes a luminous appearance in the act of drawing, and the captured creatures, flouncing about for a few minutes; exhibit all their phosphorescent beauty, and expire. The idea of herrings being never seen alive is therefore not quite correct.

Our success being only tolerable, the mainsail was hoisted, and we drove a few miles to the southward. The same operations were again performed. Our trail, during the second shooting of the net, got entangled with that of an adjacent vessel, which obliged them to haul it again on board. This created great confusion. It will unavoidably often occur; and is always very unpleasant, by raising a tumultuous shouting and blaming each other. This is the only disagreeable you may encounter, with the exception that if the weather prove rainy or stormy you are obliged to retire to the *den*, a miserable receptacle, and rightly named, truly. With a fire on the floor, you go ~~in~~ where the smoke

comes out ; and when entered, can neither stand nor sit, but are necessitated to stretch your longitude where you can, amid all that is sickening and wretched. Whoever ventures on a fishing excursion must prepare and fortify himself to endure the horrors of the miserable den.

During the whole period, the net was cast three times ; and the number of fish taken was 8 or 10 maize, or about 7000. This is considered good success. It sometimes occurs, that one boat will take 40 or 50 maize ; and in the year 1802, it was known for one boat to bring home 180 ; at which plentiful season 100 maize was not an unusual product. Such seasons have, however, been unknown of later years. The *May-flower*, our vessel, has gained 70 guineas in one night's trip ; but she is thought fortunate now in clearing from 5 to 10 guineas.

The net having been drawn on board for the last time at 5 o'clock in the morning, sails were hoisted for returning home. The wind being contrary, we did not reach Peel before 8 o'clock. The interim was employed in clearing the nets of the few fish remaining entangled, and talking over events of the neighbourhood, and fishing anecdotes. Wearied with midnight vigils, I hailed with joy the long illuminated line of opening day. I watched the increasing day-break till the sun rose behind the heights of Knockaloe and Slieauny-froghane, and gleamed on the welcome tide that was bearing us homeward.

To watch the returning fleet, whose sails are expanded to the morning sun, is truly pleasing ; and the stranger who will, just at the proper time, ascend the summit of Knockaloe, will be able to see this in perfection, and will be abundantly repaid for the toil of climbing the steep ascent.

On entering the harbour we were hailed by small boats, having buyers on board, who go round among the fishing boats to ascertain their success, and offer prices for their herrings.

It may be necessary here to explain the manner of dividing the product of the night's fishing. A boat is generally considered to carry 9 men and 9 pieces of net; and the product is divided into twelve shares; one of which goes to every fisherman, two to the owner of the boat, and one for the nets, which is apportioned to the owners of them respectively. Thus the captain, by taking *two* of his own men, and providing the boat and the nets, would just divide the product equally with the six fishermen who go along with him.

It may be calculated, according to *our* night's success, that each fisherman may earn from 10 to 20 shillings a night. This however would be extremely erroneous, if taken as a general example. They are sometimes unable, through stormy weather, to go out above twice or three times in a week; and often, when they go, catch but few herrings—sometimes none. There is no danger of their becoming rich. They deserve all they get. Their long absence from the domestic circle—their chief labour being required during the hours of midnight—their constant exposure to the horrors of the storm and tempest—and the painful uncertainty of their success—will constrain every one to acknowledge that their bread is hardly earned, and that the fisherman is worthy of his hire.

When we reflect that the chief subsistence of upwards of 3000 poor Islanders depends upon this precarious source, it must be a gladdening event when the fleet returns from the labours of the night with two or three thousand pounds worth of herrings. Yet, out of this good, arise two serious evils, which every means should be employed to correct. The one is, that success in fishing induces excess in drinking. Intoxication is the bane of this Island. It is to be regretted that the low price of spirituous liquors affords such a facility for indulgence in this destructive crime. The other evil is a disgusting indolence when on shore, resulting from the nature of sea-faring occupations.

Accustomed to their fishing, they become almost useless at home. The females toil in the fields, and cultivate the farm, while the men, having no engagements at sea, lounge away the vacant day in the corner of some neighbouring tap-room, talking over the wonderful exploits and escapes of the preceding season. As agricultural arrangements are now carrying forward with increasing spirit, it is hoped that the male population will derive a political and moral advantage. There is no doubt that if the time that is employed in fishing were employed in farming, it would as well repay the poor man for his labour. He that can convince the Manx-men of this truth will confer a benefit as great as his task will be difficult.

Being once more on terra firma, I found myself in the midst of a busy population. General anxiety to know what had been our success manifested itself. The herrings began soon to be circulated as a trading commodity. Carts from Douglas and different parts of the country were carrying away the shining purchase; lusty females were conveying off their baskets with the milky-looking contents; and the smoky-visaged paupers came buying the day's meal at 5 for a penny, pleased, at so reasonable a rate, to replenish the table of their hardy families.

The fishermen, on landing, brought along with them their nets, which were forthwith shouldered to the adjacent hill, where I observed scores of them laying them abroad to dry, and mending the broken meshes, to be ready for the next excursion.\*

A circumstance at this time happened, which created an additional movement, particularly among the younger tribes. One of the fishermen venturously attempting to bring to shore a small skully-boat, which he had overladen with herrings, it was overturned by the heavy surge which

\* For an account of the manner in which the herrings are *salled* and dried for exportation, the reader is referred to page 149.



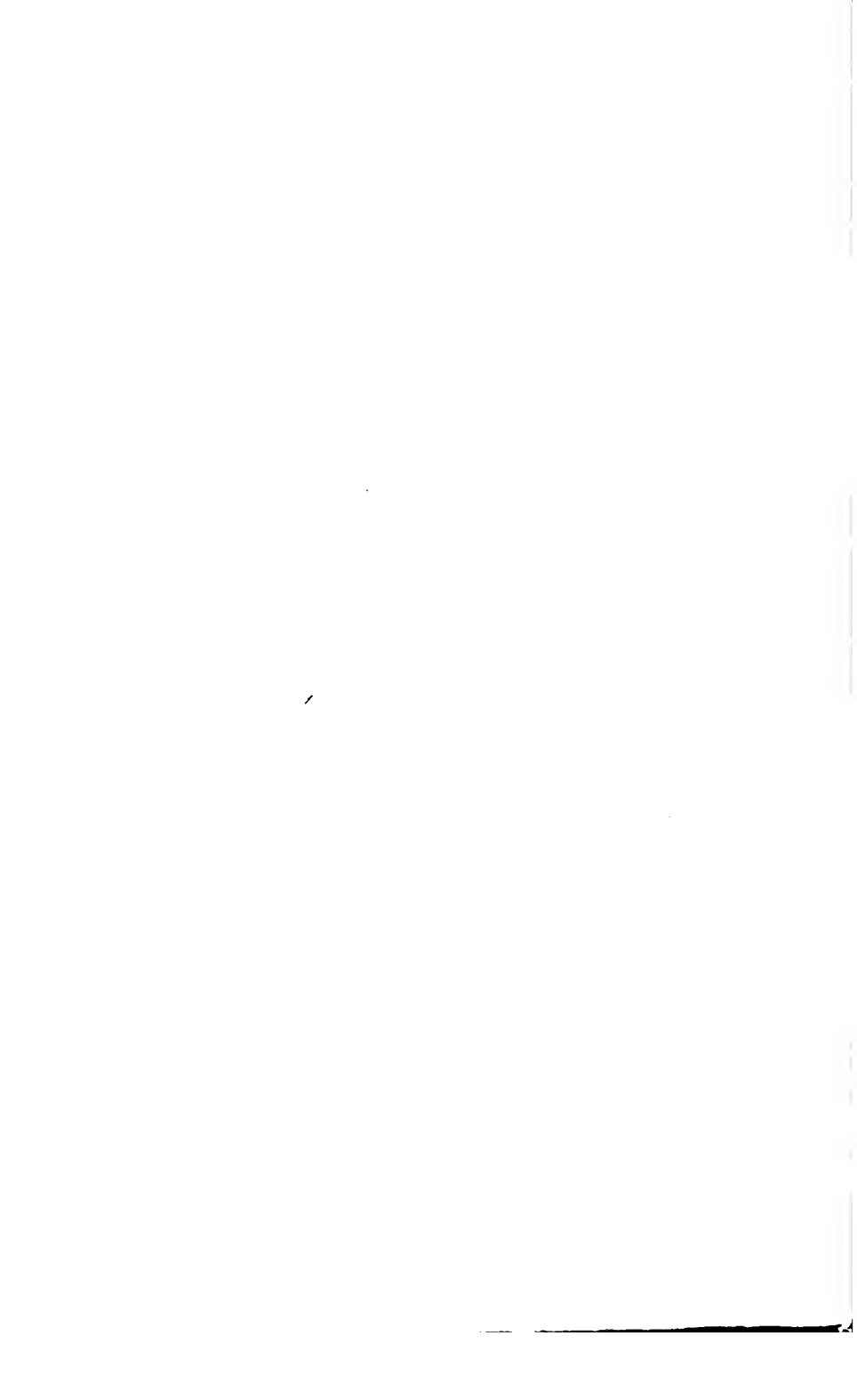
was driving upon the beach. The children of the town were quickly crowded upon the shore, attempting, with wonderful amusement to themselves, to snatch from the driving waves the floating fry. The merriment was great to the freakish children; but the poor man, who had lost about 10,000 herrings, was not so pleased to see their mirth at his expense.

While the weather continues favourable, the fishing operations, which I have attempted to describe, are kept up during the season without intermission; and I frankly confess, few specimens of industry have afforded me greater entertainment or satisfaction than the herring-fishing of the Isle of Man.



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J. Gleave, Printer.







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